



# COACHING LINES

Dalmatian Club of Southern New England

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## Club Officers

President: **Richard Baker**

Vice President: **Sandy Lajoie**

Treasurer: **Christine Ramalho**

Corresponding Secretary:  
**Crissy Rojas**

Recording Secretary:  
**Prue Stuhr**

Board of Directors:

**Karen Blanchfield**

**Pam Devlin**

**Nanci Hayes**

**Donna MacCallum**

March 2018 President's Letter

Dear DCSNE Members,

Our Annual Meeting on January 14, 2018, allowed us to gather to catch up on recent events, participate in our outstanding raffle, enjoy a lunch together, have a club meeting and receive awards and applaud as others received awards. Thanks to Sue Basius for creating the terrific slide show and to Sara Bourque for presenting the lovely Dal photos on the computer during the afternoon. The MacWilliams family of Melissa, Betty, and Jennifer Ettinger organized a wonderful raffle for us. I wish to thank Pauline Caton for accepting the awards applications, and for typing a list for Prue and me to use to present the awards. It was heart-warming to have so many titles achieved this year. Welcome to Karen Blanchfield and Donna MacCallum to the DCSNE Board.

Nanci Hayes presented her fourth terrific performance Obedience/Rally seminar on March 3, 2018. We had 13 Dalmatian enthusiasts participating using Novice Rally signs. Within this issue you can you can read more about the Nanci's clinic. Later there was some obedience practice, and time to work two puppies in conformation. It was wonderful to have Christine Ramalho's mother, Mary, with us during the day.

We welcomed five new members during the meeting: Jennifer Ettinger, Trish Goddard, Pepe Leyton, and Susan and John McSpadden. We also had the first reading for Tiana Holt.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, June 2, 2018, at Ladies Dog Club, in Wrentham, MA on the hill overlooking the show. The time will be announced about a week ahead of time. There will be an owner-handler and beginner puppy competition as well as regular conformation. The judge will be Lawrence L. Vandiver. I look forward to seeing you that day. Showing our Dalmatians outdoors is always a joy.

Finally, we will support the entry at Penobscot Valley KC in Cumberland, ME on Saturday, June 23, 2018. Nanci Hayes will be the CGC/CGCA evaluator. Bring your dog (any breed). The conformation judge will be Col. Joe B. Purkhiser and the obedience judge will be Stephanie Podejko. A notice will be sent informing the time of the Club meeting. I look forward to seeing you in Maine.

Yours truly,  
Richard Baker  
Dalmatian Club of Southern New England, President

## 2018 Annual Meeting: By Prue Stuhr

Our Annual Meeting on January 14, 2018, with 22 members and 3 guests was a lively event with lunch, meeting, slide show, election of officers, raffle, and awards. The slide show was created by Sue Basius and run by Sara Bourque with slides rotating during lunch time. Later, an individual photo was on the screen at the time the member Dalmatian was receiving an award. We had some extremely memorable titles this year: two GCHB, one GCHS, and four CH. In performance we had the #1 2017 Agility Dal who received a MACH5, and a Dal who achieved a VCD4. Pride was on each owner's face as they were handed their award no matter how big or small the achievement. The following received awards with only the new titles indicated: Blanchfield/Becket: GCHB and Seven: GCHS, Macwilliams/Monson: BN; K. Smith/Kevin: CH; Hebert/Atty: MACH5; Lajoie/Simpson/McNamara/Nova: BCAT; Lajoie/Simpson/McNamara: Alex: BCAT; Ramalho/Baker: RA and Rose: CGC; Fraser/Wageman/Plaza/Mikey: CH/TD/RATO/CAA/CGC; Fraser/Nicky:VCD4/UDX/OFP/MJP/VA; Stuhr/Stuhr/Baker/Ticket/TDN; Schoelzel/Dahlia: CH/NAJ/NA/RE; Hayes/Arabella: CGCA/TDN; Garceau/Garceau/Quinn/AJ: RATI,/RATN; Garceau/Garceau/Quinn/TT: CC; McNamara/Lajoie/Huck: GCHB/BCAT; Whiting/Amelia: CH. The Following officers were elected: President-Richard Baker; Vice President-Sandy Lajoie; Corresponding Secretary-Crissy Rojas; Recording Secretary-Prue Stuhr-Treasurer- Christine Ramalho. The Board members elected are Karen Blanchfield, Pam Devlin, Nanci Hayes, Donna MacCallum. The Raffle was beautifully organized and ably run by Melissa MacWilliams, Jennifer Ettinger, and Betty MacWilliams. Members from the six New England states and New York were represented at the meeting and all had a chance to catch up in a non-show atmosphere.



Photo by: Prue Stuhr

# 2018 Annual Meeting Moments



Above Photos taken by: Prue Stuhr



## In Memoriam: Carolyn Mullins



Carolyn Mullins 1931-2018  
Longtime DCSNE and DCA Member  
By Prue Stuhr

After their Irish Setter died, Gordon and Carolyn Mullins were looking for another dog. Gordon's uncle was William "Bud" Knowles of the well-known Registered Kennel called Colonial Coach (1946-1980's) from Des Plaines, IL. They were destined to get a Dalmatian. They had a heart-break with their first Dal Colonial Coach Mr. Nice Guy (Bucky) who had a trauma while being kenneled and was never the same. Back to Uncle Bud, where Colonial Coach Caprice (Katie) was placed with the Mullins. She loved the show ring, so dog showing became a way of life. After 12 frustrating reserves, Katie finished with Barbara Partridge handling and Esme Treen judging. Carolyn wrote for her 2015 DCSNE Bio that the icing on the cake was that Katie beat the Dal who went on to win BOB at Westminster. They bred Katie and named their kennel Country Squire. They kept a girl, whose markings were heavier than Carolyn would have liked, so they stopped showing her. But their Dalmatian story didn't end there. The DCSNE decided to take on rescue work after the 101 Dalmatians (1996) 2<sup>nd</sup> movie came out. The Mullins formed a committee, developed operational rules to keep track of all the rescues. Katie had another litter. At one point they had at their Madison, CT home 8 puppies, 2 Adult Dals, 1 Brussels Griffon and 5 guest Dals for a total of 16 dogs and not one dog fight. None of the adoptees were ever returned to them.

The Mullins were very gracious and fun-loving people who gave much to the DCSNE. Gordon was the DCSNE Vice President in 1987 and President in 1988 and 1989. He passed away in 2005. Carolyn was Vice President in 1992 and 1993, They were outgoing and loyal friends. Although they had busy lives with three sons and full-time work, they always had time for Dalmatian people. Carolyn and Gordon Mullins were treasured friends and devoted DCSNE members.

# In Memoriam: Carolyn Mullins



Carolyn with Scott Facey's Storm in 2005.



Nap time: Gordon and Katie.



Gordon with puppies.



Carolyn with Katie, one day before puppies whelp.



Sweeps Judge, PJ Fetner, Gordon with Katie, Pres. Prue Stuhr.



Gordon showing Katie.

## 2018 Rally Clinic: By Nanci Hayes, AKC Rally Judge

### AKC RALLY CLINIC WITH NEW RALLY SIGNS

What a great group of Dalmatians and handlers that attended the AKC Rally Clinic on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the DogStar Activity Center in Acton, Mass. It was also quite a family affair. We had 3 litter mates only 11 months old; Dawn with Junior, Tiana with Desmond and Jennifer with Juniper. Jennifer came also with her sister Melissa with Monson and her mother Betty with Archer. That's 5 participants from Maine!! Christine came with her entire household practically; her mother, Vavoa, who is always a delight to be with as well as Lavender, Rose and Baker. Mother Nature was not so kind to the Ramalho family in Rhode Island which left them without power for a good day and a half or so. Sara Eastman came down from the Green Mountains to join us with Thriller. Just over the border in NH, Jody came with Mikey and Nanci (who had to be there) with Arabella. Donna with Blue, Sandy with Nova and at the last-minute Susan with Cali had the shorter commutes making New England well represented. President Rick came to run the meeting. Prue, our loyal club photographer took some fantastic photos throughout the clinic. Connecticut was the lone state without representations, Barbara and Dave Garceau, we all missed you. Overall, it was a group with a combination of never done rally before handlers and/or dogs to those that have done some rally before with the dog present and some with now a new dog. Dogs and handlers of all ages and experience were present which was a great variety making for a very enjoyable and informative day for all.

A description of all the novice rally signs that went into effect on November 1, 2017 was passed out. Each of the exercises was explained/demonstrated with tips given starting with baby steps on some of the exercises for our younger dogs. A complete Rally Novice Map was passed out to show everyone what a course map looks like and what to expect. With Rally one can talk as well as use hand signals. A novice rally course was set up and 2 demo dogs ran the course. One course was run with all hand signals with Dawn and Junior. Sara with Thriller ran the same novice rally course only talking to the dog. As Junior is deaf, it was very clear how hand signals can be used to teach a dog anything you want it to do. It was a performance that really showed the bond between the dog and the handler.

Every one of the teams ran the novice rally course as well as worked some of the separate stations I had set up. It was absolutely amazing to see how well everyone did. Desmond who is recuperating from a hiking injury did a few of the exercises with ease. Junior did a few exercises for this first-time off lead. Blue added an extra twist to her sits by sitting on her hind legs and raising her 2 front paws. With a little more practice, every one of these teams could very easily enter a rally novice trial at an AKC dog show. Remember the DCSNE Specialty is right around the corner in September at the Cape.

After finishing with rally, Sara with Thriller and Melissa with Monson did a little open dumbbell work. It was discussed at the general meeting about the location of the DCA Nationals in 2019. I see team obedience in the horizon here for 2019 Coach Barbara Garceau.



## 2018 Rally Clinic



Photo of the Rally Group



Ring Work



# 2018 Rally Clinic



Betty + Archer



Jody + Mikey



Jen + Juniper



Dawn + Junior



# 2018 Rally Clinic



Nanci Hayes + Arabella



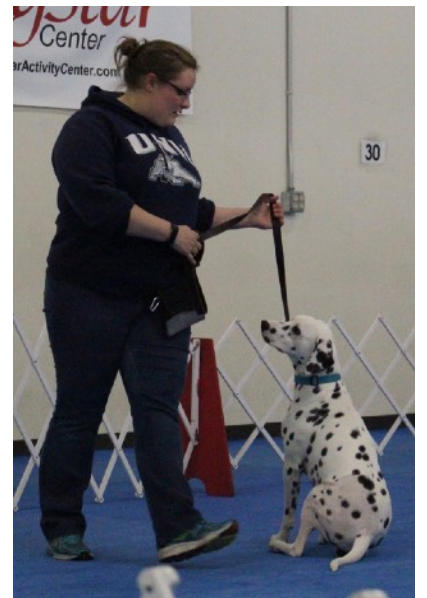
Donna + Blue



Sandy + Nova



Sara + Thriller



Tiana + Desmond

## DCSNE Member Bio: Cristin Rojas

### Sportworks Kennel

I have had Dalmatians in my life since I was in utero! Quite literally, I was born into a show home where my mother (Anne Ash Rojas) had been working with Dals since she was 12 years old. I believe we had five Dals when I was born. In my early childhood it was not unusual to have up to 7 at a time, some champions, some in process and some just pets. Since sometime in my 20's I have owned or co-owned a Dal. There were a few Corgi's and two Labs as well, not to mention the resident Min Pins!

I grew up at Dog Shows. As a baby, my brother and I watched Mom compete while the Baby sitter attended to our needs. As I got older I became aware of the camaraderie between exhibitors as families gathered to support their peers ringside and sit on coolers under the tent to discuss the day's events. The coolers contained beverages to share, cheese and crackers and the occasional cookout supplies. Everyone brought something to share. Even back then I recall that feeling of familiarity when you run into an old friend you haven't seen since the last show.

In my teens I was the schlepper of coolers, groomer and nail trimmer, retriever of dogs from the tent and supporter of whomever was in the ring. Most people stuck around for Best in Show back then. Showing a dog seemed more about being with friends than a task to complete. I introduced friends to the sport who still talk about good times at the shows, and they don't even own a dog!

As college came to a close I told Mom it was time to get another show dog. At the same time, I started a retail job and quickly learned that my new boss was the current president of the Penobscot Valley Kennel Club! Having lived in Maine for a few short years, we had not explored the local clubs yet, but remained constant members of DCSNE. My boss and I became friends and thus began my introduction to Obedience, as she was an exhibitor and trainer of Golden Retrievers.

It wasn't until my adult years that I realized who some of these familiar faces were. Judges, professional handlers, amateurs ... everyone was on the same playing field, so I just knew names. Such is the privileged life of being born into this culture. The example my Mother set for this kindness, lack of judgment, sportsmanship and genuine concern for others has been paramount to my participation in the dog world.

I have been in the ring, but it doesn't seem to be my forte. The few times I have actively participated I handled an unruly puppy Dal from Tennessee, a Corgi who showed herself, a Dalmatian who escaped my grasp and ran off, and a dog who turned out to not like the flaps of a judge's jacket. Once, I took best of breed and a group third!



## DCSNE Member Bio: Cristin Rojas

### Sportworks Kennel

I love dogs of all shapes and sizes and cannot imagine my world without them. Recently we lost our rescue Labrador Retriever. It occurred to me then, I had not spent more than 5 weeks of my life without a dog. We came home with an 8-week old Lab puppy two weeks later. Meanwhile, I dog-sit for my husband's employer who has an ancient Basset Hound and provide back-up care for Mom's beloved Dal, Cassie.

It is with honor and pride that I have recently become the DCSNE Corresponding Secretary. I love to work with dogs, dog people and dog events. What is this world without Dogs?!



Above: Ch Green Starr Gold Forbes- AKA George. Owners: Anne Rojas, Margie Doane, Georgette McMurry.

**DCSNE Member Bio:** Cristin Rojas  
Sportworks Kennel



Above: Spotworks Paint Your Wagon - AKA Pardner.  
Owners Anne Rojas, Cristin Rojas.



Above: Spotworks Portillo- AKA Tillo. Owners: Cristin Rojas and Robert Gates, Jr.



## Skijoring

Posted: February 2, 2017 Permission given to republish from MaineToday.com

# RAISE THE WOOF WITH SKIJORING

Written by: Deb Collins

Do you want to get your blood pumping, your heart pounding and ignite your lethargic winter brain with nature's wild adrenaline? Skijoring might be the new snow activity to add to your winter repertoire. This Nordic sport, which has 19th-century Scandinavian roots, evolved when the dog sled was switched out for skis, creating a hybrid cross-country technique that translates as "ski driving." This winter trail-blazing activity combines the gliding motion of cross-country skiing with the ancestral drive of your canine companion. It's designed as a mutual workout for both the dog and skier, so don't expect to sit back and get a free ride. "Skijoring is about tapping into your dog's inner wolf and reconnecting with nature," said Steve Crone, the top dog at New England Dog Sledding. "Skijoring, like sled dogging, pairs genetic capacity with physical reality and creates a Zen machine."

I'm always looking for new ways to bond with my Labrador, Ted, and get my daily dose of fitness. We hike Portland Trails year-round, and I'm addicted to the rush from downhill skiing. I've dabbled in off-leash canine cross-country skiing, but I've never harnessed up my dog and gone Nordic. This year, however, I headed out to Maine's western mountains to meet a skijoring lifestyle mogul and sniff out people who could give me the scoop on skiing with my dog.

### The Dogfather

Crone could be dubbed New England's "Dogfather" of canine-related winter sports. Over the years, he has introduced many dog lovers to skijoring, an interactive, dynamic sport that fuses cross-country skiing with the inherent drive and instinct of man's best friend.

"Dogs are genetically super-stacked to follow their nose, round the bend and chase things. Skijoring is the amping-up of wild genetics," he said.

Your canine partner doesn't need to be the quintessential mushing husky. You just need an athletic dog over 30 pounds that likes to run, has a desire to lead and knows basic commands. The two-legged part of the ski-driving team should be a fairly proficient cross-country skier with the ability to skate, negotiate turns and stop.

"The typical house dog is taught to heel, stay and come and will initially end up winding itself around its owner. We need to retrain a dog how to be a lead dog," Crone said.

One way to begin is by getting your dog accustomed to wearing a harness and maintaining a stand stay with the skijoring bungee line pulled taut. Crone suggests anchoring the canine cadet to a tree as a way of reshaping the obedient habit of returning to their owner's heel.

## Skijoring

Crone assures that with the appropriate training techniques you can avoid your dog reverting to being a leash puller when he's not geared up in his skijoring get-up. My Ted has the innate desire to pull and loves to run. I'd need to ditch the dog treats that I bring on outward hound excursions to encourage him to return to my heel. The focus will no longer be on me but on the trail ahead and a new reward: the thrill of the chase.

When you first harness your dog and hook in to each other with the bungee line, just mush the trail in snow boots. You need to help your dog master the art of leading without the added complication of skis. Begin to introduce your chosen skijor commands, like "hike" or "let's go," "whoa" and "easy," to get yourselves in sync. Having a lure, like another dog or family member out in front, is a great way to teach your dog how to lead and trail blaze.

When you add skis to the mix, make sure they're not metal-edged; you don't want sharp edges around your dog. You'll want to pick an easy packed-snow trail, take it slow and get your dog used to having you attached.

Crone said the ultimate way to teach a dog this ski-driving sport is to use another well-trained skijoring dog as a trail co-pilot.

"Dogs are intellectual long-distance cardio athletes ... Show them what you want and their instinct takes over," he said.

Crone no longer offers regular skijoring lessons with your own dog, but you can plan an adventure weekend away without your dog at his Telemark Inn wilderness retreat ([newenglanddogsledding.com](http://newenglanddogsledding.com)) to immerse yourself in his sled dog world, experience the exhilaration of sledding and skijoring and come home trained and ready to bring out your dog's inner wolf.

To get the most out of Crone's wilderness adventures, you might want to roll up your sleeves and pitch in.

"Sled dogging is hard work," Crone said. "It's about shoveling poop, watering dogs, unloading and connecting gang lines to get three or four teams of 30 to 40 dogs ready. It takes an act of God and love to pull it off."

But the end result is worth it. Picture a fully-loaded sled of 30 animated dogs leading the way down the trail with a skijoring team following in their wake and loving the chase.

### The Dalmatian Ladies

Dawn Eliot-Johnson and her friends, however, have figured it out. A vet technician, dog trainer and Lucas Legend Dalmatians breeder who lives in Bryant Pond, she was motivated to try skijoring when her young dog, Lollipop, wasn't proving to be reliable off-leash on the trails. She initially did short cross-country skiing jaunts with Lollipop on a harness, being careful not to over-exert her new ski buddy or have her pull too much, as she was still under a year old. Vets and breeders often discourage over-exertion of dogs under the age of 2 because of developing growth plates.



## Skijoring



*Dawn Eliot-Johnson and her Dalmatian, Zen. Photo by Deb Collins*

Eliot-Johnson and her girlfriends gradually formed their own unofficial skijoring club of black and white spotted trail-blazing Dalmatians. She and her friends do a lot of outdoor adventuring together in summer but in winter their outdoor adventures typically waned. One of her friends started feeling quite depressed, and she attributed this to her lack of outdoor activity in winter.

“We needed a new way to get us all out in winter. So skijoring became our new group winter passion that we try to do most weekends,” Eliot-Johnson said.

The ladies didn’t want their dogs interacting on the trail. They wanted them focused, one behind the other, so they established a trail hierarchy. They picked a pack leader, Eliot-Johnson’s dog, Zen, to be out front, then placed prey-driven dogs next and slower dogs in the rear.

Snowy logging trails or frozen ponds are the go-to trails for the Dalmatian skijoring ladies. Eliot-Johnson suggests starting on a packed, low-traffic snowmobile trail with straight shots so your dog doesn’t get sidetracked off-trail. By heading out mid-morning, her team avoids most snowmobilers who typically rev up their engines mid-afternoon.

On the trail, the Dalmatian-led ladies sometimes look like falling dominos.

“No one wants to hit each other so we all just drop ... We laugh at ourselves and just have fun,” she said.

Skijorers talk about the art of falling sideways; you want to avoid falling backwards or on your back, and, ideally, you need to try and relax to cushion your fall – that’s the theory, at least.

## Skijoring

For Eliot-Johnson, the trick to training your dog to pull and lead on a trail versus heeling on a hike or regular walk has a lot to do with the equipment. Change their gear and commands and her dogs take on a different job.



*Photo of Dawn Eliot-Johnson's Dalmatians Zen + Junior*

"You can hike the trails with your dogs at your side in summer and have them lead in winter. With the right set-up, I can happily hike on the same trail that my skijoring dog led on yesterday. Dogs are smart; they get it," she said.

Downhill skijoring is Eliot-Johnson's favorite way to get her winter adrenaline fix.

"We get going fast but if my dog stops, I just open up my legs, unclip and keep going... When I fall, my dog stops, pounces on me and licks my face," she said.

### **A Family Affair**

Justine Carver owns Barker Brook Kennel, which is Ted's favorite go-to mountain doggie daycare when we downhill ski at Sunday River Ski Resort. She also breeds and owns golden retrievers with a good work ethic and strong hunting genes.

Carver decided skijoring would be a fun family activity to do with her parents and golden girls.

"Heidi is my oldest – 10 next month. She does the best," she said. "Gracie, 6 and a half, doesn't enjoy it at all. She gets very nervous, so we usually just put a backpack on her, and we make her carry our waters. Copper is nearly 2 and doesn't do any pulling yet but enjoys wearing her harness and dragging rope."



## Skijoring

Carver and her family engaged in some fieldwork practice, giving the ski dog cadets a chance to get used to wearing harnesses, dragging a rope or small sled and shadowing a fellow skijorer. Then Carver encouraged her dad, who is a comfortable cross-country skier, to kick it up a notch and skijor a full loop on her family's backyard trail while she ran along behind.

"Heidi was doing fantastic! Close to a mile from home she and the other dogs (who were not skijoring, just running loose) spotted a squirrel," Carver said. "Oh boy, did she take off ... Full speed ahead, and then at full tilt she dove off the trail into the woods taking my dad with her ... While skijoring is a fun job for them they are still squirrel chasers first and foremost."

These dog-loving skijoring enthusiasts make me want to brush up on my cross-country skiing skills and dive in to this alluring Nordic sport. If you're out on the trails this winter and see a fox-red cartoon-like Labrador flying along, tongue out, ears flapping, with a determined crazy lady skiing in his wake, yelling "Easy Ted," it might be me dosing up on some wild-wolf adrenaline.

Deb Collins' Blog: <https://happymestuff.com/blog/>

## 2018 DCSNE Wins + Achievements



Above: Seven 2018 BOS Westminster, Karen Blanchfield + Pepe Leyton.



Above: Mellissa MacWilliams's Monson, 1st Leg for Rally Excellent.



Above: Ronnie Schoelzel's, Dahlia Finished CD on March 4th, 2018.



Above: Donna MacCallum's Betty #10 Dal NOHS



# COACHING LINES

Dalmatian Club of Southern New England



## Contributors:



Prue Stuhr: Author, Editor and Curator for Coaching Lines.



Sara Bourque: Graphic Design & Layout

## Upcoming Events:

• **June 2, 2018** Saturday / Club Meeting at Ladies Dog Club. Wrentham, MA Time: TBA.

• **June 23, 2018** Saturday/ Meeting at Penobscot Valley KC, Cumberland ME Time: TBA  
Supported Entry for Dalmatians by the DCSNE.  
Canine Good Citizen Test at Penobscot Valley KC, Evaluator: Nanci Hayes, email: [yankee@fairpoint.net](mailto:yankee@fairpoint.net) Open to all Dogs including mixed breeds, 6 months or older and with rabies certificates.

**Cranberry Cluster • Cape Cod Fairgrounds, East Falmouth, MA**

• **September 13, 2018** Thursday Cape Cod KC Regular Show.

• **September 14, 2018** South Shore KC, DCSNE Specialty #1 (Club Meeting )  
Sweepstakes : Stacey LaForge / Conformation : Albert Bianchi, VA

• **September 15, 2018** Friday, South Shore KC, DCSNE Specialty #2 (Raffle) Sweepstakes: Betty Pirs / Conformation: Linda Lewin, VA

• **September 16, 2018** Sunday DCSNE Supported Entry, Cape Cod KC.  
Sweepstakes: Jim Shea / Conformation: Alfred J. Ferruggiaro, MD

**HAPPY SPRING !**