



# The Lone Ranger



My tracking experiences with Eik vom Clausberg were different than with all but one of my dogs because Eik was imported from Germany with a SchH3 title. He arrived in this country in January 2007 and lived with his owner in the Texas Hill Country. I co-own the dog. His owner wanted a TD on him and asked me if I would take him and do the tracking training with him and try to get his title. I agreed and brought him home at the end of August and started his tracking training. I knew he could do SchH tracking if he already had a SchH3, but he probably hadn't tracked since he got his title in April 2005. I wanted to enter him in the Springfield, MO test October 7, but the entries closed early on September 12. The pressure was on to get him ready in time. I didn't think he was ready to certify when Charlene Dunn said she would meet us in McKinney and lay a track for us on September 3. In spite of the dry conditions, and having him wait to let two cyclists cross over his track on the bike path, he did pass!! His performance was not what I would have liked but we had time to work on his problems if I could get him entered in the test. We tracked almost every day!

As luck would have it, we drew a track in the Springfield test. I was concerned about the alfalfa and lush green vegetation as we had nothing similar around here to track in. A second worry was the wind because there had been very little wind while we were training, unlike most times in Texas! The third concern was that two of the TD entrants were females in season and Eik has been used extensively at stud. I was afraid to even get him out at the headquarters.

We drew track #2. The first dog failed, which does not inspire confidence. When I went to ask the judges if it was wet enough that I should wear rubber boots, I found out that my track had been messed up because the tracklayer had gone to the wrong flag and missed a turn which would have been the only left turn. Now we had to wait for track #3 to age and the wind was getting stronger and the temperature was getting warmer by the minute!

Just before I got Eik out, I checked the wind direction and was glad I did. The track was in lush green vegetation and the first leg was with the wind. Eik settled into the track very nicely and was going so fast I was running. It was so wet with dew that I was afraid I would slip and fall, but I knew when he went fast he would be less likely to be interested in creatures that might be hiding in the grass. The first turn could have been either direction because it was in an open field but he had a convincing turn to the left and then another. I was thinking the 3rd turn would surely be to the right, but he indicated to the left again! My brain was thinking, "We can't be going back toward the 1st leg!" Again, he was convincing, so off we ran. The 4th turn was to the right but as we started up a slight incline, I see the start flags for the next track. So, again, I think, "We can't go very far in this direction." Eik stopped and lay down. I went up to him but didn't see a glove. That was very scary ~ just then I remembered the wind direction. He was heading into the wind so I presumed he smelled the glove way before he got there. I gave the 'track' command and off we went again. Eik went far enough to pull me again a few yards and lay down again ~ this time I could see the glove between his paws. What a relief that was! He completed the 460 yard track in 7 minutes!!

The very next dog in the same field spent most of the first leg trying to chase mice, so I knew there must have been mice on Eik's track. That dog failed. The next three dogs also failed. Eik was the only dog out of six trying for the TD who passed. So, Jim Freeman dubbed him, "The Lone Ranger." Out of five dogs trying for the TDX, only the last one (who actually ran the alternate track), passed. In spite of the difficulties, we succeeded and I was certainly glad I believed in my dog because out of all the tests that I had either participated in as an entrant or judge, I had never seen a track shaped the way Eik's was. Coincidentally, the last track I laid for Eik in training was the very same shape as the one he got in the test. It was also a great coincidence that the dam of his six-day-old pups I had left at home (Greta von Fernheim TD BH), got her TD the first time she tried at the same club's test, three years earlier...and she also drew the second track!

Submitted by Mrs. Gillian M. Salling, AKC Tracking Judge #3165

## President's Message



CODY

Hi All,

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hopefully Santa brought everyone what they wished for ~ including the wishes of our four-legged friends.

I would like to thank all the members who helped with the TDX / VST Match in December. Dogs and handlers alike worked very hard. Everything seemed to go smoothly for the Match. It was wet and windy on Saturday and cold on Sunday, but it warmed as the day progressed. Our judges, Jon Bishop and Mary Bender did an outstanding job. It seemed everyone had a good time.

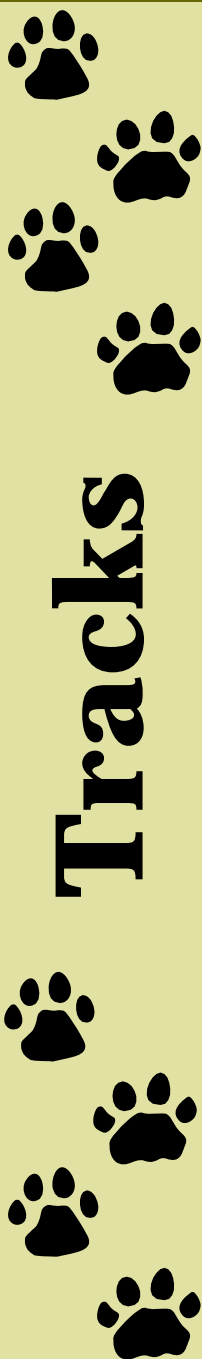
January begins our next eight-week session of class. We have one set of beginners and two sets of intermediate classes. I hope if it is cold through the week, it warms up just for our weekend classes!

A special *THANK YOU* for all the cards and support during the loss of my 'Smokey'. Sometimes life works in mysterious ways. As some of you know, Santa came early for me this year. He brought a nine-week-old cousin to Smokey. Sometimes little things fill a big hole. Cody has A LOT of personality and he will be my challenge in the new year.

Debra Lyons, DFWTC President

### Inside this issue:

Dogs in Focus	2
Ronna's Recipe	4
October Certification Match	7
December TDX/VST Match	8
November Board Meeting	9



# JANUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 DCA-VST	21	22 DCA-TD/ TDZ	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Schedule of Events

- ① 5 - Winter Classes begin
- ① 6 - SW Tracking Association (TD/TDX)
- ① 13 - TD Test (Postponed)
- ① 13 - Sandia Dog Obedience Club (TD)
- ① 20 - DCA (VST)
- ① 22 - DCA (TD/TDX)
- ① 27 - Tracking Club of El Paso (TD)

## Dogs in Focus: 'Jordan'

By Sarah Helber  
Photos by Koni Vahdat '07

Jordan was born May 1, 1998, near San Diego, California. When I drove to California to pick my puppy and bring him home, I picked the little boy with the big attitude. Jordan's breeder wasn't sure he would survive since he only weighed 5.5 oz. when he was born, so she gave him first chance at the 'feeding trough'. This may have added to Jordan's rather large ego.

Deciding on a name was tough because I wanted a happy name and the litter was a 'candy' litter. I finally settled on Almond Joy for the candy, with a call name of Jordan for Jordan almonds. My sister and I use the kennel name Tervuren Qui Rit (Tervuren who laughs). Thus Jordan became Ambition's Almond Joy Qui Rit.

I love tracking, and I wanted this dog to be a Champion Tracker (which goal we haven't achieved...but we've come close and are getting back to it). After a week in Dallas letting Jordan get adjusted, I started Jordan tracking at eight weeks old. Although I believed in VST, I was not comfortable with my ability to start a puppy for VST. Thus we started the more traditional way, in the fields. I did however use a much greater variety of articles and also tried to track at least once a week in a public park to get him used to the distractions as well as the contamination.

This distraction work was especially important for us, because Jordan is very smart, very quick-thinking, and very aware of everything around him. In fact, he is such an impulsive dog that it would have been scary if he had not been so good-natured.

By the time Jordan was a year old, we had passed three very different TD tests—El Paso, Fort Worth, and Loma Linda, California (at the National) and had started working on TDX. We worked all through the summer, hot though it was. He was a good TDX worker, too, but for various reasons it took us four tests to get our TDX—at the National in Athens, GA in 2000.

Since that time we have entered and flunked too many VST tests. After a couple of years of not competing, we hope to get back to it soon and get that CT.

Jordan and I have also competed in agility and recently started Rally as a means of gaining exposure to the obedience ring. I anticipate starting 'real' obedience next year.

Early in his life we did a little herding, and he showed good aptitude, but I just didn't have the time to track and herd. We haven't gone back to herding and won't unless we can commit serious time to it.



Ambition's Almond Joy Qui Rit

Jordan has always been my travel companion as well. Last year I totaled up the travel miles we'd spent together (excluding local travel) and it was more than 50,000 miles! (To tracking tests, to National's, to visit friends, etc.)

I enjoy Jordan greatly, and he is certainly not retired. It is scary to realize Jordan is 9 1/2 years old, but at this point in his life he is: *Ambition's Almond Joy Qui Rit, RA, TDX, AX, AXJ*



## Schedule of Events

- ⑩ 10 - Sandia Dog Obedience Club (TDX)
- ⑩ 10 - Greater Kansas City Shetland Sheepdog Club (TD/TDX)
- ⑩ 14 - Valentine's Day
- ⑩ 16 - **DFWTC CLUB MEETING (AA CREDIT UNION)**
- ⑩ 17 - Tracking Club of El Paso (TDX)
- ⑩ 23 - Last day of class
- ⑩ 24 - TX Tri-City Obedience Club (TD/TDX)
- ⑩ 24 - Colombine State Poodle Club (TDX)

# FEBRUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 Meeting
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

## Items of [Tracking] Interest

**NOSE & SCENT GAMES** : These articles by John Rice & Susan Clothier will provide a lot of fun nosework for your dog and hours of amusement for you. *Which Hand?* and *Lights Out* games have been particularly fun for my dog. According to the authors, these games not only provide nosework practice, but they also increase your dogs trust in you. Additionally, this web site has many articles of interest from proper collars to teaching self-control and more.

<http://www.flyingdogpress.com>



**STAYING WARM**: Recently a friend told me about a manufacturer that provided extreme cold weather gear to our armed forces. These cold weather garments are made solely by Tullahoma Industries LLC. There are others who claim to make the polypropylene product, but it is my understanding that only this company makes the true product. I went to a local sporting shop to look at polypro garments, but it turned out only to be polypro in part and had a very nylon feel. The true polypro should feel fleece-like, cotton and is very, very warm. This company sells tops, bottoms, balaclavas, booties and glove liners. To read more about this extreme cold weather gear [at very nominal prices], visit their web site at: <http://www.tii.us/>



**DACHSHUND CLUB OF AMERICA**: The National Club will host TD, TDX and VST tests on Sunday, January 20, 2008 [VST] and Tuesday, January 22, 2008 (TD, TDX). Sunday's VST test will be held at Harris Methodist Hospital (H-E-B) in Bedford, Texas. Tuesday's tests will be held in McKinney, Texas. For more information search 'Events' at the AKC web site or follow this link:

<http://www.akc.org/events/search/index.cfm?action=results>



**FACT or FICTION**: Fiction. Emily Carmichael authors many books about [fictional] adventures in doggy-dom. [A New Leash on Life](#) depicts a story about dog trainer Jane Connor, who after a fire at her boarding kennel, is approached by a reality TV film producer to film her and her dog, Shadow, on the summer Agility circuit. Adventures ensue as does romance. It is a fun read. Thank you, Cherita. [http://www.amazon.com/New-Leash-Life-Emily-Carmichael/dp/0553586351/ref=sr\\_1\\_9?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1199385035&sr=1-9](http://www.amazon.com/New-Leash-Life-Emily-Carmichael/dp/0553586351/ref=sr_1_9?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1199385035&sr=1-9)



# MARCH 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## Schedule of Events

- ① **March 1** - Carol Pernicka Seminar (Day 1)
- ① **March 2** - Carol Pernicka Seminar (Day 2)
- ① **2** - Greater Kansas City Dog Training Club (TD)
- ① **8** - Spring Tracking Classes Begin
- ① **9** - LA Capital City Obedience Club (TD/TDX)
- ① **16** - Houston Obedience Training Dog Club (TD/TDX)
- ① **18** - Greater Kansas City Dog Training Club (VST)
- ① **23** - Denver Foothills Tracking Assoc. (TDX)

## Ronna's (Canine) Recipe...

### Liver Leather

*This makes GREAT training bait, tracking bait, etc. ~ ~ chewy, not crumbly! I have yet to meet a dog who won't chew through pockets to get to this! Liver works best, but you can experiment with ground 'muscle' meats too.*

1lb raw fresh liver, drained (beef, calf, or chicken)

1 cup tapioca flour\*\*\* (aka tapioca starch)

Garlic powder - to taste

1. Preheat oven to 250
2. Line a rimmed baking sheet with Reynolds® 'Release' non-stick foil (don't try this recipe without using this foil): I usually spray even the non-stick foil with a little Pam®, too.
3. Put liver in food processor and blend to a smooth, pink liquid. (yuck).
4. Add tapioca flour and pulse until well combined (you can add the garlic powder at this point or sprinkle on before baking). Add a little water or broth, if need be, to make a smooth, spreadable paste, the consistency of sour cream.
5. Spread evenly and thinly in prepared pan, sprinkle with garlic powder or grated cheese, if desired, and bake approximately 60-70 minutes, reversing the baking sheet front-to-back midway through. Finished product should be chewy, not crispy, so do not overbake.
6. Cool slightly, cut into desired size pieces, cool completely, and freeze. (I find it helpful to transfer the baked 'cake' directly to a rack to cool—this prevents condensation on the bottom which can form ice crystals when frozen.)

\*\*\*Tapioca flour can be found in the baking ingredients aisle at larger grocery stores (Super Target, Whole Foods / Central Market and Sprouts; the most common brand is "Bob's Red Mill." Imported brands can also be found in Asian grocery markets, where it is usually labeled, 'tapioca starch'. It has a long shelf-life.

Substituting some of the wheat flour in most of your dog cookie recipes with tapioca flour will improve the texture, especially for chewy training bait.



Moxie CDX, RE, AXP, AJP & Tuffy Bear

# October 2007 DFWTC Meeting Minutes

---



## **DFW Tracking Club**

October 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes

1:10 pm (Meeting called to order)

In Attendance: Charlene Dunn, Tracy Freeling, Connie Napier, Cindy Morrow, Natasha Decker, Marian Beck-Edwards, Cherita Sherrill, Monica Becherer, and Koni Vahdat. Guests: Ronna Miller and Lucie Hiser.

Motion made by Connie N. to correct August Minutes to change 'Spring Classes' to 'Winter Classes' and 'Dog' to 'Springer'. Charlene D. seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report: Not present. Message conveyed through Koni V. that Deb was sorry she couldn't be at the meeting and would be present at the next meeting.

Vice-President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: Beginner class for the winter session is full. Club is still taking applications for the intermediate and advanced classes for the winter session. Instructors are needed for the spring classes. Discussion ensued; it was decided to re-address this at the next meeting to allow Sarah Helber and Marian Beck-Edwards to check their schedules.

Treasurer's Report: DFWTC had an income of \$980.00 less \$80.00 due to class refund because of student injury. Expenses totaled \$129.88. Club purchased a First Aid Kit, software, storage bin (to store secretarial material), tracking test supplies (tracking book and Show Trial Book—which had been lost). The Board held a short meeting to approve the last two purchases. The club's current balance is \$5293.35. Tracy F. made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Cherita S. seconded. Motion passed.

## Committees:

Tracking Committee: No committee members present. Hospitality chairperson Cherita S. discussed food. Koni V. and Ronna M. volunteered to make doggy treats for match bags. Harris Methodist Hospital (HEB) had granted DFWTC permission to use the hospital's land for the seminar and TDX / VST Match. A decision was made to have the tracking committee continue to cover our December match because there will be no meeting prior to the match. Cherita S. asked to be replaced as hospitality chairperson because she will not be able to attend the match.

Seminar Committee: The flyer for the March 2008 seminar has been published.

Old Business: Budget tabled due to Sarah Helber's absence.

New Business: Charlene D. read the email sent by Deb L. to Lisa Cecin [AKC], in regards to applying for licensed status. We need to re-contact her to see what else is needed (other than the membership roster) for the license presentation package. Marian E. made a motion to postpone the January 13, 2008 match until we hear from the AKC and are approved to hold a licensed test. Natasha D. seconded. Motion passed.

New Members: Second reading for Ronna Miller. Ronna was unanimously voted in. First reading for Toni Skiles and Lucie Hiser.

Next meeting December 15, 2007, at AA Credit Union, inside.

Marian E. made motion to adjourn. Charlene D. seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM



# December 2007 DFWTC Meeting Minutes

---

## DFW Tracking Club

December 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

12:05 pm (Meeting called to order)

In Attendance: Deb Lyons, Koni Vahdat, Cindi Todd, Tracy Freeling, Daphne Price, Sarah Helber, Marian Beck-Edwards, Natasha Decker, Charlene Dunn, and Monica Becherer. Guests: Jon Bishop and Mary Bender.

Minutes from the October Club meeting and November Board meeting were read. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read by Tracy F. Cindi T. seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report: We heard from the AKC. They have accepted our last match. Deb L. has the letter for the secretary (Cindy M.) to send to the AKC for our presentation for licensed status. A discussion was had whether to hold off sending the letter until after the first of the year (2008) as to have an accurate membership listing.

Vice-President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: Beginner class is full. Twelve intermediates signed up for class (with class times of 9am/11am. There is room for three more intermediate trackers. In Cindy's absence, she begs for instructors. Marian E. and Sarah H. will teach spring classes with Natasha D. assisting. They will limit beginner class to 8 students as well as 8 students for the intermediate class. They will take a total of 16 students if a particular class does not fill.

Treasurer's Report: DFWTC currently has \$3897.10 in the bank. Charlene D. continues to hold checks for dues and classes until after the beginning of the year. Expenses were the club generator and insurance. Koni V. made motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Cindi T. seconded. Motion passed.

## Committees:

Tracking Committee: Tracking match will be held this weekend (TDX/VST). We would like to thank our judges, our secretary, and our chief tracklayer. Deb L. gave a report on the food for the match. Koni V. will make coffee.

Seminar Committee: There are 7 entrants for the seminar. Charlene D. will contact Carol P. to see if she would be willing to work with at least 10 dogs at the seminar. Sarah H. made a motion that if we have 10 dogs, we will hold the seminar. Monica seconded. Motion passed.

Marian E. said Judy Asher would be willing to hold an informal question/answer session for a nominal fee.

Budget Committee: Committee has not met yet. There will be a brief meeting after this club meeting.

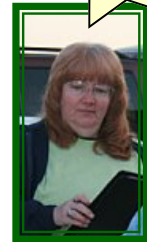
Old Business: Tracking maps have been purchased. DFWTC has 100 quad-print judges maps. The cost was \$45.00.

New Business: Koni V. asked if the club would consider publishing hard-copy newsletters. Monica B. suggested we print some for the next meeting. If no one wants one, then we do not need to print them. It was also suggested that the option for hard-copy newsletters be included with the dues notice next year.

New Members: Both applications from the October meeting were tabled until the February meeting.

Next meeting February 16, 2008, at AA Credit Union.

Cindi T. made motion to adjourn. Koni V. seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM



# October Tracking Certification Match

Compiled by Natasha Decker

On October 28, 2007 DFWTC held its fourth TD certification match. It was judged by Michael Pumilia and our very own Charlene Dunn. Five teams entered the match, which was held in the fields around AA Credit Union in Fort Worth. It was a "picture perfect" tracking morning: no wind, heavy dew, moderate temperatures. Unfortunately, none of the teams passed. In the spirit of learning from adversity we asked all of our participants to share at least three "Lessons Learned", so that we may all benefit from their experience.



Track #1 was drawn by Theresa Garton, who drove down to Dallas from Oklahoma City for the tracking match. Theresa's tracking partner was Susie (Winnere Black Eyed Susan RN, NAJ), a four and a half year old Boxer. Susie looked very happy to be out and got off to an enthusiastic start. Unfortunately, Susie was not quite as curious about the track as she was about the scents around it, and, after the first turn was missed, the judges blew the whistle. Theresa and Susie finished the track with the assistance of tracklayer Cindy Morrow. Looking back on the match, Theresa listed the following as her top three lessons learned:



1. Use 30 yard flags. In practice, Theresa had not been using 30 yard flags with Susie. The big "pom-poms" on the 30 yard stake at the match proved both a distraction and visual cue to her dog. Susie went right to the 30 yard flag, and Theresa had to restart and to refocus her dog. Since the match, practice with 30 yard flags has taught her that Susie has been cueing on the flags to make her turns. Speaking of which...
2. Practice blind tracks (and turns). This was the first blind track that Theresa and Susie ran together. Consequently, Theresa was not sure what behavior to look for when her dog indicated a turn or loss of scent. They have also not had a chance to practice backing up, since, having laid the track herself and knowing where the turns were, Theresa would not overshoot them in practice. Practicing on more blind tracks should give Theresa the necessary experience to better read her dog.
3. Practice with distractions. Normally, Theresa and Susie practice in relatively quiet conditions with few distractions. A new field with new critter scents, a gallery of observers, and a jogging trail nearby were a bit distracting. In practice, Theresa will focus on working with more people around and pushing through distractions.

Track #2 was drawn by Koni Vahdat, the DFTWC Vice-President. Jet (Summer's Knight Dream, RN) a six year old Giant Schnauzer was very eager to get started. He looked very happy to be trotting through the heavy morning dew and got off the start quickly, but after some turn problems the dreaded whistle was blown. Tracy Freeling, tracklayer #2, helped Koni and Jet complete their track and in the process taught us all a bonus lesson, do not walk too closely behind a person carrying sharp metal stakes under their arm. As for Koni, she offered us the following insights:



1. Your dog's not always right out in the field, but he's all you've got.
2. You might think conditions are perfect for tracking; your dog may not agree.
3. There is never a restroom near enough when one is nervous on a cold morning. (Amen!)
4. The first 30 yards of a TD is easiest, the next 30 are fine if you can walk in a straight line... (The support group for those who cannot walk in a straight line meets every third Thursday of the month at IHOP.)

Cindi Todd had both Track #3 and Track #4. On Track #3 she partnered up with Vegas (Dual Champion CSI v Kanix MW), a three year old Miniature Wirehair Dachshund. Vegas, unfortunately, on this particular day was not inclined to engage in tracking or any other Cindi mandated activity. Not even the assistance of tracklayer Sarah Helber could propel Vegas beyond the first fifty yards. So there was nothing left for Cindi to do, but throw in the towel. In Vegas' defense we have to say that at the time of the match she happened to be slightly pregnant, so we cannot fault her for putting motherhood above tracking, especially after seeing the adorable pictures of her daughter, who was born in early December. Cindi's partner for Track #4 was Harper (CH Laci's Seamus Harper MW OA OAJ AXP AXJP), a four and



a half year old *male* Miniature Wirehair Dachshund. Harper got off to a great start, made a beautiful first turn, got out into the middle of the open field, and decided that as long as they were out there he would look around for interesting critter scents. Cindi dutifully followed Harper on his exploration mission, so by the time he decided to go find the track again it was too late. After tracklayer, Marla Bull, brought them back to the track Harper finished just beautifully. The gallery truly enjoyed watching Harper work even though he was not actually visible most of the time. We could only observe Cindi's line, as if magically, pulling her forward or spinning circles around her. Given that Cindi had two dogs entered in this match, she had a lot of lessons learned to share:



1. Do not change up your tracking routing in any manner, especially if your dog is already under stress (e.g. pregnancy). Going to the start of Vegas' track Cindi did not take her own car, but rode with someone else while holding her dog in her lap, a foreign concept to all of her dogs. Cindi did not make any changes to Harper's routine.
2. Learn your tracking line and how to handle it. Cindi feels that she amused the crowd because her tracking line turned in to a "black snake" threatening to choke her at any given minute or trip her - it had a hard time deciding which to do.
3. Practice where there might be critters. Crittering is not something Harper has been prone to doing in practice. Surprise!
4. Do not drift with your dog when he is not tracking. Harper was crittering and Cindi allowed herself to drift off the track so far as to not enable him to find it again, even with most of the line let out - that's a huge drift. If your dog starts messing around, stand your ground, do not drift. (The echo of Charlene's voice is likely to linger in Cindi's head for a long time to come.)
5. Be grateful that map making is not part of TD certification.

The last track of the day, Track #5, was laid by Monica Becherer, and run by Connie Napier and Rocky (Mesa Rock Star, CDX, RE, NAJ, AX), her seven year old Rhodesian Ridgeback. Rocky is a hard worker who got off to a beautiful start. His first turn was the kind of perfect first turn we all dream off, but on the second leg problems arose. It was a long leg that led to some communication problems, and after Rocky committed to a left turn rather than a right, the judges blew the whistle. Connie shared the following lessons learned from her experience at the match:

1. Trust your dog. Be aware of what his body language is indicating.
2. On a blind track nerves kick in and your perception of distance and time becomes different. During the match every leg seemed long to Connie and it seemed that more time went by than really did.
3. Carry water on your track. Connie was really surprised when Rocky came back to her for water. He does not usually do this in practice.
4. We live in an awesome tracking club that did an outstanding job putting this match together. (I second that!)



Photos courtesy of Dava, Cindi & Koni

# Tracking 101 & 201 (Beginner & Intermediate)

Pictures by Koni



## 2007 National Tracking Invitational CT Riesenrad's Heike in Motion VCD1, UDX, RE

According to Ingrid Hamburger, Heike has always loved to work. She came to live with Ingrid when she was three months old. A mere three months later Heike had already earned her TD. Early the next year, Ingrid and Heike earned their TDX and were competing well in obedience classes.

Together they earned the Dog World Award, Top Dog Competitions, And Specialty High Combined Scores. In May of 2005, Heike became the first Giant Schnauzer to earn the privilege of having a CT placed in front of her name.

Ingrid notes that Heike really lights up when she is put into a harness and she is raring to go and so much fun to watch.



Photo by Enid Lagree

Ingrid says the Tracking Invitational was quite an experience and the AKC treated all the participants wonderfully. States Ingrid, "The Biltmore is a fantastic place; the tracks were very challenging; none of the ten tracks were alike, but all were do-able. All the dogs worked hard and well even though only the little poodle made it to the end without a little hint from the judges. The judges highly praise the work of all participating dogs. I was told Heike probably had one of, if not, the hardest track (terrain), but that was ok. She had one really big, steep hill on her third leg and really had to pull me up..."

\*Look for a more detailed account of Heike's track after Ingrid recuperates.



# DFWTC's First TDX / VST Match...A Spectator Perspective

From the looks of this newsletter, this has been a busy and interesting final quarter for the Dallas-Fort Worth Tracking Club. Undoubtedly, one of the most intriguing events (meetings notwithstanding, of course) was the first ever TDX / VST Match held by the club. As a spectator, I was enthralled by the participating teams entered in this event.

Tracking is SO much fun.



Very early on this bitterly cold Sunday morning, all participants showed up, ready to work. Tracy Freeling gave a concise but informative exposition on proper use of the tracking fields and sportsmanship....it was then time for the highly anticipated drawing for track numbers done at the American Airlines Credit Union parking lot...afterward, we carpooled to Harris Methodist Hospital (HEB) to watch these fine teams begin their challenging tasks.

VST Track #1 ~ This track went to Mellowrose Glad All Over, TDX (Rosie) and Karen Yates. Rosie had a beautiful start. She took Karen down the first leg effortlessly. As they approached turn one, Rosie did quite a bit of sniffing and Karen patiently waited for Rosie to commit to the turn. Rosie sniffed left and Rosie sniffed right, Rosie sniffed straight and back...and Rosie sniffed some more. To the view from the gallery, it appeared she slightly indicated to the left, but not convincingly. It seemed confusing...was she actually indicating the turn or was she interested in the spectators in that direction? Eventually, Rosie decided to go straight instead of left. After the whistle blew, Rosie continued on her track magnificently...taking Karen to the final article, the glove. This beautiful mellow Rosie, is an awesome tracking girl...I have seen her track [successfully] in the most horrendous conditions (for more on that please see October issue of Tracks). She is a special girl and will surely earn her CT soon.



VST Track #2 ~ This track went to Ambition's Almond Joy Qui Rit, RA, TDX, AX, AXJ (Jordan) and Sarah Helber. The gallery was not able to see Jordan's start as it began behind some buildings. I'm not quite sure what happened back there, perhaps he ran into a little stairway snafu; but the whistle had been blown when Jordan & Sarah appeared on the front side of the structure...as they came into view, he was tracking heartily. Much to Jordan's credit, he found and retrieved a very flat, crushed metal article and was able to somehow pick it up off of the ground...Jordan and Sarah were quite a distance from the gallery's view at this point, but it appeared Jordan was dead on the track...and working mightily at finding all his articles. It's been a privilege to watch Jordan and Sarah track over the past few months...he is a committed worker...this guy can track! Whichever sport Jordan is involved in, he is always an [almond] joy to watch.



VST Track #3 ~ This track went to Tilbury's Cinnamon Splash of Pal, TD (Sydney) and Tom Hacholski. Tom and his 'spicy' girl got off to a swift start...Sydney took Tom to the first turn quickly and then out of sight...Sydney and Tom ran into some problem while out of sight, perhaps an overshoot turn [?]. It seemed to be a waiting game for the gallery...when the team re-appeared, they were again on track and going strong over the concrete drive in front of the large building. Sydney completed this track with a great deal of strength, vigor and sureness. This girl is less than two years old and has already begun to prove her tracking abilities. Sydney made a big 'splash' with the on-lookers at this event.

TDX Track #1 ~ This track went to Gaylan's Lady Omar Khayyam, TD (Khayenne) and John Runnels. Our one and only X participant. O' that I could write a rubaiyat about this girl~! Khayenne worked industriously in all aspects of her track. Khayenne had a fine start but ran into some difficulty on the first leg. We enjoyed watching this team work the huge field. Khayenne had a big challenge going through the icy water on this cold, cold day...but like a true winner...she did it and found her much anticipated glove. This track was very interesting, certainly in part, because the entire track was visible. But also because this is a wonderful can-do tracking team.



Photo courtesy of Michael Loftis

Each and every tracking team was impressive. To have trained your dogs to the point of TDX / VST ability...you are all incredible as are your four-legged teammates! I wish you many, many future successes. Above all, I wish you an invitation to Asheville. You are all champions.

**\*\*~ Notable Notes ~\*\*** Two of our club members are on the cusp of obtaining their Champion Tracker titles~! Karen Yates, with Rosie and Sarah Helber with Jordan will be participating in the Dachshund Club of America [National] Variable Surface Tracking test on January 20, 2008. Best wishes to these and all teams entered in the upcoming test.

By spectator Koni V.



DFW Tracking Club  
C/O Cindy Morrow  
P.O. Box 591  
Marlow, OK 73055  
info@dfwtc.org

E-mail: dfwtrackers@yahoogroups.com

Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dfwtrackers/>

Website: <http://www.dfwtc.org>

*DFW Tracking Club was founded in the summer of 2005 by members of the tracking community who wished to offer tests, teach classes, and serve the tracking needs in the DFW area.*

*The mission of the DFW Tracking Club is to provide a need to the tracking community for tracking tests, tracking classes, and tracking education.*

*DFW Tracking Club has instructors who can service all levels of tracking from the novice to the advanced tracker. Our classes are structured to teach dogs and their humans to track for an AKC tracking test.*

*DFW Tracking Club is an AKC recognized club, and a 501( c ) tax exempt organization.*

**We are on the Web!**  
**<http://www.dfwtc.org>**

*For more information about the DFW Tracking Club, check out our yahoo group at [dfwtrackers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:dfwtrackers@yahoogroups.com) or email the club secretary at [info@dfwtc.org](mailto:info@dfwtc.org)*

## November Board Meeting Minutes

### DFW Tracking Club

November 24, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes  
12:30pm (Meeting called to order)

In attendance: Deb Lyons, President; Cindy Morrow, Secretary; Charlene Dunn, Treasurer; Tracy Freeling, Guest.

Secretary's Report: Beginner class is full. Twelve intermediates are signed up for class. Intermediate classes will begin at 9am and 11am. There is room for three more intermediate trackers.

Discussion ensued to add one beginner tracker on the winter session waiting list; it was agreed to do so. Cindy M. will notify Margaret Lindsey, the only stand-by, to offer her the slot for the beginner winter session.

Treasurer's Report: DFWTC has over \$4000.00 in the bank. Charlene D. is holding checks for dues & classes until such time they are ready for deposit.

The club's insurance needs renewal at a cost of \$265.00. Treasurer will fill out form and mail.

A trip to Home Depot and/or Hobby Lobby is in order to obtain supplies to make additional starter kits.

Charlene received a letter from the IRS stating in 2008, an electronic filing requirement will be due May 15, 2008. However, this will not be available until after the first of the year.

A discussion was had concerning the upcoming tracking seminar scheduled for March 2008. As of this date, Charlene has only received three entries. It was determined that by the middle of January 2008, if more entries are not received, then the seminar will be cancelled. Another board meeting will be called at that time to make the final decision on the seminar.

New Business: More AKC judging maps are needed. Charlene D. will talk to Dave Sherrill about printing these.

The board discussed the purchase of a generator for the club. Cindy M. made a motion to purchase a generator. Charlene D. Seconded. Motion passed. It was decided to postpone purchasing the generator to see if the TDX/VST match makes. If it does, the Club will purchase the generator. If the match is cancelled, the Club will purchase the generator at a later date.

Deb L. read a letter from Jean Hilbig concerning the Springer Spaniel National Tracking Test in November 2008. Based on the e-mail received, we will need to verify the date of the Springer Spaniel National Test, verify what our club agreed to provide as far as tracklayers and flags, the amount of donation that was agreed upon for our club for helping. An e-mail would also be sent by Deb L. regarding what was previously provided to Dana Hodges concerning DFWTC's contribution in this test.

Cindy made a motion to adjourn. Charlene D. seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.



## Tracking Classes

**DFWTC is actively accepting applications for Spring tracking classes. Please reserve your place now, if you plan on enrolling in the Spring classes. Forms are available on the DFWTC web site:**

**[www.dfwtc.org](http://www.dfwtc.org)**