Volume 8 Issue 1 **April 2012 Editor: Pam Raymond** zerrinsmom@yahoo.com OLU TRACKING **≯**



Note from Editor

By Pam Raymond

Hi everyone. Since we just weathered a bunch of tornadoes, I guess spring is here.

Lots of stuff in this newsletter. Including several articles! Thanks to all who contributed.

Most of the spring tests are over with, just the last few to go. I learned a lot laying one of the VST tracks. If you want to learn what judges think, lay track for a test. It was a very interesting introduction to a type of tracking I had little experience with. Hopefully, I'll get more in the future... I guess that is up to Arinna.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Remember, I'm always hoping for articles!

REVISED!!!

Next Meeting

Date: April 14th

Time: 1:30 pm

Location:
Olive Garden
Irving, TX

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President's Message

Ahhhhhhh . . . it's time to take a deep breath after our busy season (November through March). The Club has held two tests this quarter – VST and TDX – and is over half-way through the second round of classes this year.

We have some news to report – a new tracking site! I wish I could say it's in the heart of the mid-cities area, but we all know that can't happen. Nevertheless, it's a lovely acreage near Valley View, Texas (north of Denton). We've been approved to hold a combined 4 TD/4 TDX test there on Sunday, November 11, 2012. This will replace our fall TD test at TCC NW campus on Thanksgiving weekend. For some of our members it's closer, and for some it's farther. I hope as many as can will come out to help us if not enter at the new site.

Looking back at how much we've accomplished the last quarter, I wanted to thank those who have made possible. It seems like forever ago, but we started out the quarter with our VST test at Texas Health Harris Methodist-HEB hospital and TCC NE campus. Many thanks to Chair/Secretary Jeanine Wilson and her crew, including Chief Tracklayer Cindi Todd, tracklayers Charlene Dunn, myself, Freda Burks, Tracy Freeling, Pam Raymond and Jerri Lindsey, and hospitality Nancy and Rod Barclay. Details are included in a separate article in *Tracks*.

We also had a very successful TDX test near Ferris, TX earlier this month. Two new TDX's were earned by club members — myself handling Marian Beck-Edwards's Teal Oak's That's My Guy TD (now TDX) and Gillian Salling with her Liesl Von Fernheim TD (now TDX). Other participants came very close to passing as well. Many, many thanks to Test Chair/ Secretary/Tracklayer/Hospitality/Jack-of-all-trades Charlene Dunn as well as Chief Tracklayer Jeanine Wilson, additional tracklayers Jerri Lindsey, Rod Barclay and Pam Raymond, and cross-tracklayers Cindi Todd, Susan Norvell, Jeff Raymond, Jeanine Wilson and Nancy Barclay. Again, details are included separately in this edition of *Tracks*.

Finally, we're half-way though the second set of tracking classes, with Marian Beck-Edwards and myself as instructors. They're a great group (and I just got word that one of them, Craig Nash and his Aussie Dylan, passed the TD test in Houston).

Just in case you're getting bored with all the "thanks" I give - please don't be!! I really am thankful. I truly love the sport of tracking, and I love to help further it if I can. For all of you who enjoy getting that title, even if other sports are your favorite, please remember how much it takes to put on these tests, and please volunteer to help if you can. We can almost always find a way for you to help, and to take a bit of the burden off those who help out over and over again. I would love to see the Club have enough active people in the area to be able to let the true "aficionados" work all of the tests they want, but be able to have everyone else work just one test a year - and still hold 3 tests a year. Just say the magic words "I can be there - how can I help?".

Sarah

APRIL, 2011

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	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

EVENTS

April 8: VST- Springfield, MO closes 3/14- Carol Perry aussies2u@centurytel.net

April 14: Membership meeting

April 22: TD/TDX- Houston, TX closes 4/12- Marsha McCaddon macbuzz2@yahoo.com

April 22: VST- Denver, CO closes 4/4- Martha Rosner mrosner@frii.com

MAY, 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

May 6: TD/TDX- Skiatook, OK closes 4/24- Sue Young syoung@indiannationstrackingclub.org

May 20: VST- Golden, CO closes 5/2- Lynn Kaemmerer badblackcorgi@msn.com

JUNE, 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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JULY, 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

EVENTS

July 1: VST- Ft. Collins, CO closes 6/14 Elaine Verdill everdill3@gmail.com

DFWTC VST Test Report

By Sarah Helber

The DFW Tracking Club held its VST test on January 15, 2012 at Texas Health Harris Methodist HEB Hospital and Tarrant County College Northeast Campus. The judges were Connie Austin & Ule James from Rochester, Illinois. No one passed, but there was lots of good work done. Only one team didn't make the first turn, and one went over the last article!

Kudos to the team that made this test happen:

Jeanine Wilson, Test Chair/Secretary

Cindi Todd, Chief Tracklayer

Charlene Dunn, Sarah Helber, Freda Burks, Tracy Freeling and Jerri Lindsey, tracklayers Nancy and Rod Barclay, hospitality (yum!)

This year the club tried a different approach by using a room at the La Quinta for headquarters. There is an incredible amount of freeway construction in the area, and this reduced the driving required of participants. Many of the exhibitors said they liked having the dinner across the parking lot and the draw downstairs in a meeting room. Fortunately no one wore pajamas to the draw, as was threatened at dinner.

As usual, the first three tracks were at the hospital (with its better lighting & good security - the first track went down at 5:30 am). The last 5 were at Tarrant County College Northeast.

The first track was a yellow lab with a nice start, first turn, article, MOT turn, then she appeared to drift off. They corrected back, but missed an article (and not by much, either).

The second track was a young Bernese Mountain Dog. She had moments of brilliance, but then would go charging off somewhere else. A bit more maturity will probably help.

The third track, a border terrier, did the entire track, and then practically walked over the final article and on off. That was painful!

The fourth track, a Beagle, appeared to footstep-track on grass, and even found a metal article that had wandered about ten feet from the track. He appeared to make his MOT (barely), but

DFWTC VST Test Report

By Sarah Helber

then drifted off. His owner said he'd become too interested in squirrels. The tracklayer said there had been a raccoon fight (or rape) near the last turn when the track was being laid, and the dog took a good sniff where that had happened.

The fifth dog, a border collie, appeared that to just be stuck and unable to get past an area, even after repeated tries.

About the time the sixth track started, the wind suddenly really picked up and the barometric pressure really dropped. Conditions <u>seemed</u> to have become more difficult (of course the dogs aren't talking).

The sixth track was a Terv that started well but struggled afterwards.

The seventh track was a Golden that made the first turn (or maybe two?) and went out onto a parking lot. Just then the wind picked up lots and lots of leaves from an oak tree downwind, and the tracklayer said the dog was really distracted by the leaves darting and swirling past him

About this time there must have been a bad wreck over on the highway, because fire trucks and ambulances started racing nearby, and a Care Flight helicopter was practically overhead. At least the test had moved to the tracks at the campus and was not near the heliport at the hospital!

The eighth track was another Bernese Mountain Dog. She started and turned into a parking lot, but unfortunately drifted off.

Afterwards it was back to the hotel for some GREAT food!

DFWTC Club Meeting Minutes

Unapproved Cindi S. Todd

January 15, 2012

La Quinta, Hurst, TX

The meeting was called to order at 1:48 pm by President Sarah Helber. In attendance were members Sarah Helber, Rod & Nancy Barclay, Charlene Dunn, Marsha Muse, Tracy Freeling, Jerri Lindsey, Paula Gifford, Betsy Watkins, Monica Becherer and Cindi Todd.

Motion was made, 2nd and passed to accept November meeting minutes.

President's Report – Sarah thanked everyone for coming to the VST test and working. Thank you to Nancy Barclay and Rod for the food!

Secretary's Report - No report.

Treasurer's Report – The Income/Expense report was passed around.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

March 10/11, 2012 TDX. Premium List is ready. Charlene will discuss with Jeff renting a car to drive here.

Secretary/Chair: Charlene. Chief Tracklayer Jeanine Wilson volunteered. Committee: Sarah, Charlene, Tracy, Cindi and Jeanine.

NEW BUSINESS

November test – Valley View, TX (north of Denton, south of Gainesville by about 45 minutes) owned by Mr. & Mrs. Kirkland. Sarah, Tracy and Charlene went to see it and their assessment was that it was a great site. It will hold a full TD or TDX or a mixed test. Minimum need for a test: 2 judges, 4 TDX track layers, 2 TD track layers, 2 cross track layers.

Motion made to change the date to 11-10/11-2012 and move venue to Valley View. Motion passed.

Judges – motion made to ask Charlene to judge and the Judge Committee to decide on a 2nd judge. Motion passed. Charlene abstained from voting.

Sarah will confirm with Mr/Mrs Kirkland as to availability of site. Cindy Morrow will contact the AKC regarding site/date change.

Christmas Meeting – tabled.

Spring Classes – Sarah will talk with Marian about class schedule.

Weimeraner Club – DFWTC was asked if they would help them in October, 2013. Motion made to help, motion passed. Motion made to ask for a \$50 donation, motion passed.

Next meeting to be held Sunday, 4/14/2012 at 1:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbecue in Irving, TX.

A motion to adjourn was made, 2nd, passed and adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

New Test Site

The DFW Tracking Club is moving its fall test to a NEW SITE! For the last 4 years the DFWTC TD test has been held at Tarrant County College Northwest on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, a date that was chosen because the campus was closed for Thanksgiving. Unfortunately the available tracking area has been shrinking and, with the building of a new high school on the north edge of the campus, the search had begun for another site.

Peggy and Kirk Kirkland have graciously offered to allow us to use their land near Valley View, Texas (north of Denton) for our tests. Peggy and her Golden Retriever Visa earned their TD at the Indian Nations test some years ago, and Peggy has felt that their land would be a wonderful site. In December Charlene Dunn, Tracy Freeling and Sarah Helber drove up to check out the site, and thoroughly agreed with Peggy.

Therefore, this fall the DFWTC will hold a combined 4 TD/4 TDX test (with exchanges) at Fossil Ridge Ranch in Valley View, TX. The date will be November 11, 2012. The judges will be Charlene Dunn and Nan Cochrane from Wisconsin.

Watch for an article on the new site in a future *Tracks* and put it on your calendar to enter or come and help!

GUY TDX!!!!!

By Sarah Helber

Background - Retraining

Many of you know that I've been working with Marian Beck-Edwards's Golden Retriever Guy for a year or so now. Marian had put the TD on him, but offered to let me work with Guy after I retired Jordan after earning his CT. Guy is a good tracking dog, but there were a few things he did that I wanted him to do differently, and there were a very few things he did that I couldn't deal with. Since I considered this a learning experience for both of us, we started back with some retraining.

Guy is a very good-natured but physical dog, and he and I got off to a rough start. He had a little trouble understanding that the rules had changed. No longer could he blast out 20', cast around for the track, and then take off as fast as Marian's (longer) legs would carry her.

First, because I strongly prefer a controlled start, I started requiring a down at the start and even went all the way back to placing food in every step until Guy was willing to change his pace to suit mine (at least most of the time).

We also had a couple of issues with the article indication. First of all, I had witnessed the disappearance of a large tube sock on the way back from a track, and its subsequent re-appearance with the aid of some hydrogen peroxide. He had swallowed it! In addition, Marian had used the retrieve for her indication, but Guy wanted to play keep-away with me – he'd take the article away and lie down with it. I decided we needed a win-win situation, so we changed to lying down as his article indication. He liked to do it, and it kept the article out of his mouth.

Guy also wasn't dealing with frustration very well (at least with me). It dawned on me that his default position was heel position. I frequently stand with my left elbow bent resting on my pack when I'm tracking, and I finally realized that if he didn't know what to do, and he saw my left elbow bent, he was going to come up to my side and wait to heel forward. I had to train myself to keep my left arm straight as much as I could. In addition, last summer we worked on hard surfaces, which helped us work on dealing with his frustration.

Guy TDX Continued

All of this being said, Guy had been doing very nicely this spring, so I really felt he was ready. We entered the Tri-Cities TDX test as a warm-up for both of us. I hadn't been on a TDX track except as a tracklayer for over 10 years. I also wanted to see how Guy would deal with the crowd - he's such a social butterfly. Unfortunately, we nailed the first leg but Guy wouldn't commit to the first turn. I think one of the judges said he looked up the next leg but never moved that direction.

The DFWTC TDX

The weekend of the DFWTC test was forecast to be wet, wet, wet! Marian and I were teaching the current series of tracking classes for the Club and had agreed that if Guy got into the TDX I would go and she would teach. Thus I picked up Guy Saturday morning. Saturday evening I received an email from the Test Secretary giving me alternate routes to the site – in case the normal route was closed due to high water.

Just for fun I often read my horoscope the day of a test to see if it gives me any inspiration. In the *Dallas Morning News* it said "Delegating allows for a breezy ease; the trick is to acknowledge the team. Consider suggestions." That seemed like it might be pertinent, so I filed it away in my mind and headed towards Ferris.

As it turned out, we didn't receive as much rain as was feared, so we arrived in good time and drew the second track. The ground was very wet and the grass was very lush. At the draw we got The Lecture from the judges about guiding. Clearly there were some parts of some tracks that were visible in the lush grass. Conditions were great – cloudy with just an occasional few drops of rain.

We walked about 200 yards from the headquarters, across a bridge and around the edge of some trees. Guy had been bouncing around enough on the walk that I advised the judges I was going to get around the trees and stop and give him some water before continuing to the start. Having done so, I had him down at the start, let him sniff, and we were off.

Yup - there were certainly some parts of the track that were visible! However, Guy was really hauling, and making his turns before I got to them. We were on a roll. The first leg was uphill in lush grass, followed by a right turn alongside a couple of ponds. The good news was that the ponds weren't full, since otherwise I think we would have been in one of them. Guy did a double take at the duck decoys in the pond, and then we were off to the second turn.

At the second turn I wasn't as confident of Guy. He had clearly noticed the decoys, and this turn was back towards the gallery. I wasn't sure his social self hadn't kicked in a bit. He checked left (there was a fence line there), then turned right. It looked like we would have to cross the road, and at a pretty good angle. When he got to the road he shot straight across perpendicular to the road, but couldn't find anything there. We backed back across the road and he went down the original side of the road a ways. He even went back to the pond levee and looked at the decoys again. I had a pretty good idea of where it had to go, but wasn't prepared to take over the track from Guy. Finally he crossed over the road and kept going. Suddenly he lurched to the left and we were off to the races again! Shortly after that Guy did a perfect down with a sock between his front paws.

After a sip of water and a bit of panting we were off again. We had cross-tracks, went through a drainage area, made a right turn, went past more cross-tracks, and found a glasses case. Not quite so good a down this time, but I wasn't arguing. I can't remember which of the cross-tracks he showed, but I saw him go both ways once, and again a few steps later. The other set he seemed to have ignored.

After catching his breath again, we continued to the fifth turn and headed straight for a section of what I would call "thicket" - vines and small trees growing close together. He plowed right in, as did I. I moved up on him because it was very close inside. Unfortunately, the hood on my rain jacket kept catching on branches. I finally told him to sit while I stuffed my hood inside my jacket, and then we went on. He started to weasel into a really tight area, but backed up, thank goodness. As he reached the outer edge of the brush, Guy blasted out onto the track. Unfortunately, I wasn't clear yet. There was a log at the exit (maybe more than one) and, as I stepped on it to catch up with Guy, it crumbled under me and I fell. I guess the judges could hear me, or heard me shout to Guy to "wait!", because they asked if I was OK - which I was. I managed to extricate myself and told Guy to go back to work and he did.

We made one more left turn. I thought there might be yet another, but suddenly Guy stopped, standing and looking at me. He had found the glove! I couldn't believe my eyes. Guy was very proud of himself, as was I.

Thanks so much to the DFW Tracking Club for holding the test, as well as all of those individuals who made it possible. Thanks, also, to Guy, who has taught me a great deal about tracking a different kind of dog.

DFWTC Active Member List

Nancy Barclay
Rod Barclay
Monica Becherer
Horst Bungarz
Jane Bungarz
Charlene Dunn
Tracy Freeling
Sarah Helber
Jerri Lindsey
Terri Lindsey
Marsha Muse
Susan Norvell
Cindi Todd
Betsy Watkins
Jeanine Wilson

Blown Away In The Windy City By Charlene Dunn



From left to right Judge John Barnard, Charlene Dunn, Vegas, Judge Linda Baschnagel, and tracklayer Gina Post

What does any sane person do at 11:30 at night? Surely not a Tracking test... However, that's exactly what was happening, when I called to tell Cindi she was the co-owner of a Champion Tracker and a new Triple Champion. But that is the end, and as Paul Harvey says, now for the rest of the story...

Blown Away In The Windy City Continued

So how does any tracking test start... 1000-mile trip in one direction? Not usually, but if you are chasing a VST title you quickly learn you go WHEREEVER! What better place to take a distracted dog than a nighttime VST? So we went to Chicago to enter GABOC's June VST test. I didn't tell Cindi I had entered Vegas, she just knew Charlie and I were going and wherever Charlie goes, so does his mini-me. I told Cindi we were draw 7 and if we passed I was waking her up and to be prepared... What she wasn't prepared for was the call, "Cindi – You now own a triple champion." Dead silence was on the other line. Apparently she woke up enough to realize I had entered Vegas.



When we pulled up to the 2nd to last track of the day, it was at the far end of campus. It was dark and we were facing some woods. The judges pulled up and said are you ready, and I said "As ready as we will ever be" and off into the woods they went. I reminded them, jokingly that this was VST, not TDX, and we walked through the woods into a big open field facing back into campus. It was a cool night, not a lot of breeze and we struggled to find the start flag.

I had a headlamp on and a hand held flash light so we eventually got to the start and I sat Vegas down and told her to "Find me another." Off towards campus and across a bridge we motored at a good clip. Once we hit the

sidewalk we followed the arch around to a bench were Vegas stopped on a crack and put her nose down Then on she went past the 1st building and turned right to go between them. At the top of this hill was a loading dock. She looked left & right and went motoring off to the left, in the distance in the dark I could see



something on the ground and Vegas promptly sat at a leather glove. "Good girl, find me another". She continued behind the building and out to a bare patch, where I swear we spent the next 30 minutes. I don't know what was under that but she would not leave it alone. I re-scented, reminded, reinforced that she needed to

Blown Away In The Windy City Continued

move, and had half a mind to turn and yell at the judges "What gives?!" when we finally moved past the spot onto the sidewalk. At this time we turned left again and proceeded down the stairs. Let me tell you about uneven stairs in the dead of the night. I didn't watch a thing Vegas did; all I did was concentrate on not falling on my face and squishing my dog! At the bottom of the stairs we casted left and right and moved over to check out a drain, but since the track had just come left I waited for her to straighten out and then it was like a dog on rails. She pulled quickly down the sidewalk and into the parking lot, in the distance the gallery cars watched our progress, and up ahead of us was another dark blob, to which Vegas stopped at and sat.

Good Girl. I walk up to it, thinking, "Great only 1 more article to go" and as I approach, the article has a #4 taped to it... I picked it up and everyone screamed, and I turned to the judges and said, "Where the hell is my metal article?!"—Which brings us back to where we started and me telling Cindi she now owned a triple champion.

So what is our next adventure? Maybe a little agility, earthdog, more obedience, and you better believe Tracking Invitational – here we come!

The Puppy With Focus By Mrs. Gillian M. Salling

Uschi von Fernheim TD was whelped on May 19th, 2011. She was one of 3 surviving females out of the last litter of my Greta von Fernheim TD BH. I decided I wanted to keep one of these females. I knew I wanted a pup with drive and focus as I wanted to do tracking with this pup. At 30 days old when they had their first visitors Miss Yellow Collar was the pup who kept on playing when the others had got tired and fallen asleep. At 35 days old when I was testing the pups individually in the house Miss Yellow showed great focus, much better than the other 2. Through the following weeks she kept showing me that this was the pup I was going to keep and she was going to be Uschi von Fernheim. "Uschi" means "Young Bear" in German! And she has lived up to her name!

I started Uschi's tracking training when she was 10 weeks and 2 days old on July 30th, 2011. As every-body in Texas knows, the summer of 2011 was horrendous in terms of extreme heat and drought. I suspended the TDX training of my 3 adult GSDs because of the weather but Uschi didn't know anything was unusual and she had lots of drive so we continued tracking in the heat even though it was sometimes over 100F when we were tracking!!! She thought it was great fun!

As the weeks passed she was finally getting to the point that I thought she was ready to be certified but because of the extreme heat I had not been able to get her out for socialization as much I would have liked. If she had to walk anywhere on the asphalt or concrete I was afraid she would burn her little paws! But I was anxious to get her certified as I saw that there was a TD test in Fort Worth on November 20th and I knew she would be eligible to enter it as she would be just 6 months and 1 day old!!! When I saw that it was actually a Basset Hound test I knew that I may not even get into that test but that was my goal when I saw that date.

The Puppy With Focus Continued

I took her down to Plano on October 28th and was able to meet with Jon Bishop who had laid her a track. I wasn't too sure how she would do as I thought she would be distracted by him following us since I had always tracked alone except once when my husband laid her a track. She did look back at him a couple of times and did go off track slightly before the last turn but she corrected herself and completed the track so I was thrilled since she was still only 5 months and 9 days old!!

I entered her in 3 tracking tests hoping that we would get in at least one. As it happened there must not have been many dogs tracking in the hot summer so we got into all 3 tests! In the meantime I met twice with Sarah Helber and 2 of her tracking friends at Erwin Park in McKinney as I was still concerned about Uschi getting distracted so I wanted her to track with people following us. A big thank you to Sarah, Leslie and Diane! I knew Uschi could track and was hoping her great focus would keep her going once she figured out those people were meant to be behind me!



The big day dawned for the **Basset Hound Club of Greater** Fort Worth's TD/TDX test. I was glad to have drawn the first track of the day so that we would not have to wait long. Fortunately there was no wind but the grass was pretty short and dried up although the ground was somewhat damp. As we started out the track Uschi found some very delicious scent on a clump of cut grass close to the 2nd flag. I thought she would leave it and then go on but she picked it up in her mouth and circled around. I was beginning to wonder if she would get going again but I told her to leave it and I think she may have gulped some of it down!!! Anyway, after that distraction, it was all business, thankfully! She put her nose down and off

we went. I had not realized before that on her left turns she just found the new direction immediately and set off but circled a little on the right turns. We had a stair step track. After the 4th turn I was thinking that we should soon be getting to either the 5th turn or the glove, when suddenly Uschi

The Puppy With Focus Continued

started really pulling and trying to run! I heard the judges behind me starting to laugh because the pup had seen that glove and was rushing up to it to lie down by it!!!! You could just see the pride and sense of accomplishment in Uschi when I got to her and held up that prized glove!! It turns out that despite the early distraction near the 2nd flag she had run a 460 yard track in only 7 minutes! Needless to say, I was thrilled as Uschi was the only dog to pass that day out of 3 TD entries and 4 TDX entries. But the big excitement was that Uschi has to be one of the youngest dogs to ever get a TD title!!! If she is not the youngest, then she is only one day older than the youngest! Trying to even find a tracking test when your pup is old enough to enter is difficult enough but passing with a pup this young is something amazing! In fact, I beat my own record, because on November 19th, 1977, I got my very first TD on a young female GSD who was 6 months and 3 weeks old! I didn't realize then that I would still be tracking 34 years later!!!!!

Pictures From Our VST Test









Pictures From Our VST Test Continued















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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.

For more information about the DFW Tracking Club, check out our yahoo group at dfwtrackers@yahoogroups.com or email the club secretary at info@dfwtc.org