



Note from Editor



Well the year went by way too fast. I'm not sure which I'm more surprised by, the year being over or my puppy turning 1 right before Christmas. We have continued in the conformation ring with me handling the naughty knothead. Hoping to find majors early next year.

What an awesome test we had in November! Lots of great tracking plus 4 new TDs and a new TDX. Enjoy Sarah's synopsis, pictures from the field and of the new title holders as well as Jeanine's write-up for Shevy's TD.

I'd like to add my thanks to the Norvell's for hosting our holiday party again this year. Always fun to see everyone away from the tracking fields as in "oh, that's what you look like without a hat on, without a pony tail, etc."

Happy Tracking Everyone!

Jean-Maria



DFW TRACKING CLUB

Tracks



Next Meeting

Date: Jan 12, 2014

Time: Noon

Location:

**Tarrant County College
Colleyville, TX**

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President's Message

Q4 President's Message – Odds and Ends at the End of the Year

As we bring 2013 to a close, I would like to thank the DFW Tracking Club for venturing up to Wichita Falls to staff the Golden Nationals Tracking test. Unfortunately for the Golden Nationals they had a very light entry only 2 Xs and 2 Ts so we were not needed in the force they had hoped to have us. None the less the club members did a great job representing the tracking community! Thank you Sarah Helber for serving as the Chief Tracklayer, Marian Beck-Edwards and Natasha Decker for laying track. We were also helped by Tracy Dulock, one of our tracking students, as flag carrier, and Leslie McCracken was also a tracklayer.

The club also put on a very successful TD/TDX in Valley View in November. While not full, we were able to showcase our site and the club with 100% pass rate in the Ts and 50% pass rate in the Xs. This is well above the AKC average for pass rates. It also dispelled any fears that the site was unpassable. Thank you to Sarah Helber who served as the Chair/Secretary, Nancy & Rod Barclay for the wonderful hospitality, Cindi Todd, Terry O'Keefe, Tracy Dulock, Jean-Maria Higginbotham, Tracy Freeling, Marian Beck-Edwards, and Natasha Decker for laying track, cross-tracks, carrying flags, and all the other stuff it takes for us to staff a test, including driving people around and cleaning up the flags. A special "Thank You" to Peggy and Kirk Kirkland for allowing us to use their land, and their son for driving us around.

Last but not least, December marks our annual Christmas Party. Susan and Bill Norvell have been our gracious hosts for the past 3 years. Susan outdid herself again this year, the house looked wonderful and the ham was delicious. While our turnout was a little lighter than usual, we still had a great time, great food, and a very "benign" Chinese gift exchange. >:)

Remember everyone to pay your dues to Jeanine this year... I can't wait to see what 2014 brings!

Charlene

What does it take to put on a Tracking Test?

Putting on a great test is the challenge of every club that offers Tracking. It is also one of the scariest activities to young clubs and new members to the sport. However, a test is a team effort. When you decide to put on a test, the entire club should pitch in to help make it a success. The DFWTC is no stranger to this. As such we have developed templates for each aspect of the tracking test, and for each test we put on. The AKC says the event committee must consist of 5 members of the event giving club.

JANUARY, 2014

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	31	

EVENTS

January 1: TD/TDU/TDX St. Rosa, LA closes
December 17 Ann Irwin
annzde@gmail.com

January 5: TD/TDX Houston, TX closes
December 26 Kathy Daniel
vkdaniel@comcast.net

January 12: VST Bedford, TX closes
January 2 Charlene Dunn
crdslabs@yahoo.com

January 26: TD Fort Bliss, TX closes
January 15 Cindy Cardoso Iken
ibelieveitcanbedone@reagan.com

FEBRUARY, 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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	

February 2: TDX Sullivan, MO closes
January 23 Mrs. Sandi Thompson
gatewaytracking@yahoo.com

February 9: TD/TDX Littleton, CO closes
January 23 Ms. Kay Bullard
cleancritter@iwon.com

February 16: TDX El Paso, TX closes
February 6 Sandra Hill
seranadehill@aol.com

February 23: TDX Smithville, MO closes
February 13 Lisa Kramer
lksscottis@kc.rr.com

February 23: TD/TDX/VST Fort Worth, TX
closes February 10 Judy Jackson
jjblitzt@hotmail.com

MARCH, 2014

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	31					

EVENTS

March 09: TDX-Penfield, IL closes

February 27 Mrs. Lisa Ochoa
lmowhippet@hotmail.com

March 09: TDX-Littleton, CO closes

February 26 Mary Ellen Roach
copwcrecuse@gmail.com

March 09: TDX-Valley View, TX closes

February 27 Ms. Tracy Freeling
taf76137@yahoo.com

March 16: TDX-Houston, TX closes March

06 Ms. Marsha McCaddon
macbuzz2@yahoo.com

March 16: TDX-Chandlerville, IL closes

March 05 Sandy McMillan
dutchhollowlabs@sbcglobal.net

March 23: TDX-Littleton, CO closes March

12 Patti Pigeon none@none.com

APRIL, 2014

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			

April 06: TDX-Fort Worth, TX closes

March 27 Judy Jackson
jjblitz@hotmail.com

April 20: TDX-Hanover Park, IL closes

March 31 Mrs. Darlene Barnard
ctannud@sbcglobal.net

April 20: TDX-Houston, TX closes April 10

Ms. Zandra Anderson zeeangel@aol.com

April 20: TDX-Sullivan, MO closes March

26 Sandi Thompson jaysandi@sbcglobal.net

April 27: TDX-Hoffman Estates, IL closes

April 16 Mr. Meb Ingold
mebnjettah@gmail.com

DFWTC Club Meeting Minutes

Approved

12-14-2013 Susan Norvell's house, Red Oak, TX

The meeting was called to order at 3:25 pm by President Charlene Dunn. In attendance were members Charlene Dunn, Rod and Nancy Barclay, Jean-Maria Higginbotham, Natasha Decker, Susan Norvell, Betsy Watkins, Monica Becherer and Cindi Todd.

The September meeting minutes were available on the Yahoo Group. Motion to approve, 2nd and motion passed.

President's Report – Charlene thanked Susan and her husband for having our Christmas party and meeting at her house. Charlene also thanked everyone for coming to help at the Golden Retriever tracking test and our TD/TDX test at Valley View.

Secretary's Report – Although Secretary could not attend we did have Tracy Dulock's membership application to read for the 1st time.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1-2014 VST test – Our headquarters had to be moved due to La Quinta double booking their room. Currently the Headquarters will be at TCC NE in the small parking lot to the west of the tennis courts. We need to push this event to the public.

3-2014 test – Judges are Linda Baschnagel & Sue Boyd. We need committee members including hospitality as Nancy Barclay will be out of town.

COMMITTEES

Judges – Judges need to be found for the remainder of 2014 and all of 2015.

Budget – nothing to report

Seminar – postponed. Report will be made at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

November 2014 TD/TDX test. Motion made to post to Yahoo Group and Membership list for committed volunteers and if no volunteers come forward or enough volunteers are not committed by January 31, 2014 then we will not hold a November test. 2nd and passed.

January meeting to be held after the VST test.

A motion to adjourn was made and passed. Adjourned to Christmas party and gift exchange at 3:45 p.m.

Cindi S. Todd for the Secretary

TD/TDX Combined Test

Valley View, TX

November 10, 2013

It was a near perfect day Sunday in Valley View. Three passes out of three entries in the TD test and one pass out of two entries in the TDX test. The TDX team that didn't pass was well over halfway before failing.

Newly titled dogs are now:

- Rin Tin Tins Koko CD GN TD RE OAP OJP handled by Debra Hnath
- Ch Sunrunner's Heartbeat of America CD BN TD RN JH VC handled by our own club member Jeanine Wilson
- Ch Cataway Shelmar Casanova TD handled by Linda Baschnagel (who will be returning in March to judge our test)
- Rin Tin Tins Lord Solomon VCD2 GN TDX RAE AX AXJ NF CGC also handled by Debra Hnath

Many thanks go to our hosts Kirk and Peggy Kirkland. We were glad to see Kirk come out for awhile Sunday after his bout with a chainsaw two weeks ago. He had just gotten out of the hospital last Thursday night. Also thanks for providing such wonderful weather this year.

Thanks to our workers - tracklayers Marian Beck Edwards, Tracy Freeling, Jean-Maria Higginbotham and Natasha Decker; flag carrier/cross-track plotters and/or walkers Tracy Dulock, Terry O'Keefe and Cindi Todd; and most definitely our hospitality team of Nancy & Rod Barclay. Thanks again also to Marian for that delicious dessert.

And finally, thanks to our judges Charlene Dunn and Carol Clark.

Some test days I start out thinking what a wonderful day for tracking, and then the dogs prove I don't know what I'm talking about. Sunday was one of those lovely tracking days that the dogs agreed with me.

Sarah Helber
Test Chair/
Secretary



Shevy's TD Title

I started Shevy in tracking to “get my feet wet” so to speak. In 30+ years of training and showing my dogs – the one real lesson to be learned is – you usually screw up the first dog you train in any new venue. And so Shevy started tracking with the sole purpose – to be screwed up. The goal was to learn what I could and then move to Romance.

The plans went astray when Romance got sick. Back to Shevy – because by now I enjoyed the social aspect of tracking.

Shevy got mammary cancer – a spay and some “removals” were needed. Back to Romance since he was well. Again Romance got sick (there could be a pattern here) and so back to Shevy after a long layoff.

By now I had figured out tracking was not in Romance's future. So I was STUCK with Shevy.

Since most of you don't know her – that statement probably sounds awfully mean. Shevy is one in a million. She makes me laugh when no one else can, makes me cry to keep me humble, and does what she wants when she wants. Just about the happiest dog you will ever know.

Shevy is the smartest dog I have ever bred/owned. I love her dearly – but to think about seriously trying for a TD – I was worried. Would she ever do it my way? Or Cindi's way? Or more important – the AKC way? I was pretty sure we would do it Shevy's way – or not at all.

After 5 attempts to certify – we finally did – at an elementary school in Weatherford – with 4 days to spare to enter the DFW Tracking Test November 10th.

The draw was done and THANK HEAVEN we did not get the first track. I needed to get the jitters out and watching another dog was a great start. Second was perfect. Watch one and then go. It was wonderful to see the first dog pass. Made one feel the conditions were right for tracking!

Bad news? The conditions were perfect for BIRD HUNTING too. There were many – especially the judges I expect – who thought I had lost my mind when in the first 30 yards – I ALLOWED Shevy to circle me about 15 times (could have been 25 – hopefully no one was counting!).

I know Shevy and I know what she was up to. This was not her usual circling to be messing. She had a goal it was the tree line that would house birds if only she were allowed to go look. I knew shortening the line – or starting over – would only prolong the inevitable. So I decided to wait her out. Shevy wanted to hunt – not track.

On her 15th circle – her head bobbed to the left on the track – I said “good girl – find it” and off she went! She never stopped. It was very fun – nice to know Shevy agreed it was perfect tracking conditions too.

We had one other spot where hunting crossed her mind. We had made 3 turns and were back to the dirt road. I knew we didn't cross the road – so we would either go left or right. I sure didn't know – but Shevy was sniffing the air – JUST across the road, maybe 50 yards away – a beautiful tree line. Even better than the first.

Someone else will have to tell you how long we lingered at that spot – as by now I was no longer capable of thought. Shevy finally turned to the right – and down a draw. Headed straight toward fantastic cover for quail. I was absolutely sure a whistle would blow any second.

TD/TDX Combined Test

Enjoy the Pictures!





DFW Tracking Club

C/O Cindi Todd

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N. Richland Hills, TX 76180

info@dfwtc.org

E-mail:

dfwtrackers@yahoo.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.

For more information about the DFW Tracking Club, check out our website at <http://www.dfwtc.org> or email the club secretary at

info@dfwtc.org

Shevy's TD (continued)

IMAGINE my surprise at the bottom of the draw to see her bob her head – wag the tail and look at me. Shevy's "better watch close or you will miss it" article indication. I was so surprised. I wanted her to come back and lay down.

Thank heaven the judges suggested I show them the glove. So I complied! Our journey for a TD was complete.

Tracking is not an event most Irish Setters participate in. In breed history - Shevy is the 98th Irish Setter to get a TD and only the 14th Irish Setter with any kind of a field/hunting title.

It was very difficult for her to give up air scenting! Although I am sure she has not given it up completely.

I am so proud of Shevy - She is now



CH Sunrunner's Heartbeat of America CD BN RN TD JH VC CGC