



Note from Editor



I have a co-worker who calls 2014 the worst year ever. If I look at my unmet tracking goal for 2014, perhaps I'd be tempted to say that too. But that is not an accurate description of what I prefer to call the year of learning and having fun with my dogs. No, we did not get our TDX title but we gained a ton of experience and learned many lessons along the way.

Zubie and I went to Houston, Valley View, Sullivan, Fort Worth, and Springfield Mo. We (me mostly) learned at least one good lesson from every single test we entered. Many friends helped us work on holes in our skill set after each test. I learned to read my dog a whole lot better, learned not to back up too soon, how to tell when Zubie was "cooling off" as opposed to telling me the track went this way, and so many other nuances of tracking. Am I glad we didn't pass? No, but I'm glad we learned from every one of those tracks.

Happy Tracking Everyone!

Jean-Maria



DFW TRACKING CLUB

Tracks



Next Meeting

Date: January 11, 2015

Time: no earlier than noon

Location:

LaQuinta-Bedford

1809 Hwy 121,

Bedford, TX 76021

INSIDE	
NOTE FROM EDITOR	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
EVENT CALENDARS	3
MEETING MINUTES	5
TD/TDX Test	6
Maddie Dunn TD	6
Maddie Dunn TD TDX	7
Tracking Regulation Changes	8

President's Message

Saying Goodbye to 2014

Well it's December and we have made it through another year. As with any club we had our ups and downs.

Test wise we boasted the first 100% pass rate for our VST, but had low entries, we filled with Alternates in our Spring and Fall TDX portions of our combined test, but lacked T entries to make a complete test. We boasted our first pass in the "hayfields" and the hog is no more.

Classes were extremely successful this year. All classes were full and we had a waiting list. We had the debut of 2 new assistant instructors and one new lead instructor.

Our club grew with the addition of several new members who have been out at our events helping wherever they can! We said goodbye to several working members and one of the last founding members this year, so it is important that everyone pitch in and help fill the void.

Our club members enjoyed successes with their dogs, several earning new titles this year and we had our first club member owner handled mixed breed title at our test. That makes us stand out as one of the few clubs who have opened their tests to mixed breeds and proven you do not need a "pedigree" to be able to track. Our club members also said goodbye to their four-legged kids, so with the ups there were some downs

As we head into our busy season, take time to thank your fellow club members' for their hard work this year and lets get ready for 2015!

Merry Christmas everyone!

Charlene Dunn

JANUARY, 2015

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

FEBRUARY, 2015

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

EVENTS

- January 01: TD-Columbia, MO closes
December 22 Kathy Echols
krechols@aol.com
- January 04: VST-Las Cruces, NM closes
December 16 Norma Rust njust@aol.com
- January 04: TD/TDX-Houston, TX closes
December 25 Kathy Daniel
vkdaniel@comcast.net
- January 11: VST-Bedford, TX closes
December 31 Charlene Dunn
crdslabs@yahoo.com
- January 11: TD-Placitas, NM closes
December 31 Rosemary Burtch
rosybee@earthlink.net
- January 25: TD-Fort Bliss, TX closes
January 13 Sharon Jolly
spaniels@elp.rr.com
-
- February 01: TD-Jackson, LA closes
January 12 Debra Kleinpeter
dputter@cox.net
- February 08: TD/TDX-Littleton, CO closes
January 29 Mrs. Jennifer Mahaffey
jmahaffey@gmail.com
- February 08: TDX-Sullivan, MO closes
January 29 Mrs. Pat Thayer
conobra@gmail.com
- February 08: TDX-Ashland City, TN closes
January 29 Randee White
randeewhite@yahoo.com
- February 15: TDX-El Paso, TX closes
February 03 Sandra Hill
seranadehill@aol.com
- February 15: TDX-Lexington, KY closes
February 05 Susan Buxton
stbuxton@windstream.net
- February 22: TDX-Lebanon Junction-, KY
closes February 12 Myrna Keenen
bootsnblue@yahoo.com
- February 22: TD/TDU/TDX/VST-Fort
Worth, TX closes February 12 Judy
Jackson jjblitz@hotmail.com
jjblitzt@hotmail.com
- February 22: TDX-Smithville, MO closes
February 12 Debbie McHenry
mmc5301@aol.com

MARCH, 2015

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				

APRIL, 2015

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

- March 01: TD-Smithville, MO closes Feb 19
Lisa Kramer lksscottis@kc.rr.com
- March 08: TD-Sullivan, MO closes Feb 26
Sandi Thompson
gatewaytracking@yahoo.com
- March 15: TD/TDX-Houston, TX closes
March 05 Ms. Marsha McCaddon
macbuzz2@yahoo.com
- March 15: TD/TDX-Chandlerville, IL closes
March 05 Kathleen Stevens
stevens.kathleen13@gmail.com
- March 15: TD/TDX-Hanover Park, IL
closes February 25 Shawn Nies
shawndachs@sbcglobal.net
- March 22: TD/TDU-Lincolnshire, IL closes
March 12 Pat McMahon
pat.mcmahon@comcast.net
- March 22: VST-Tulsa, OK closes March 11
Sue Young
syoung@indiannationstrackingclub.org
- March 22: TDX-Littleton, CO closes March
04 Patti Pigeon none@none.com
- March 24: TD/TDU/TDX/VST-Denison, TX
closes March 04 Cathy Dorris
txcathy@msn.com
- April 05: TD/VST-Sullivan, MO closes
March 26 Sandi Thompson
gatewaytracking@yahoo.com
- April 12: VST-Champaign, IL closes April
02 Lisa Ochoa lmowhippet@hotmail.com
- April 12: VST-Lincolnshire, IL closes April
02 Teresa Higgins teehiggs@aol.com
- April 19: TD/TDU/TDX-Houston, TX closes
April 09 Ms. Pat Sayles
saylesbeagles@yahoo.com
- April 19: VST-Golden, CO closes April 01
Martha Rosner martharosner@gmail.com
- April 21: TD/TDX-Gray Summit, MO closes
April 01 Donna Garske
glenoaksrot@gmail.com
- April 26: TD/TDX-Hoffman Estates, IL
closes April 15 Mr. David M Crawford
tinibubbles1@hotmail.com

DFWTC Club Meeting Minutes

Approved

Minutes of December 20, 2014 DFW Tracking Club Meeting

Susan Norvell's Home, Red Oak, TX

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by Vice-President Sarah Helber. In attendance were members Tracy Freeling, Sarah Helber, Jean-Maria Higginbotham, Laurel Hoevker, Pam Joyce, Susan Norvell and Benita Zapata. [Start of meeting was delayed due to traffic issues. One expected attendee (Natasha Decker) never arrived.] Guests present included Carla Coggins.

Motion made to approve September minutes. Seconded, motion passed.

President's Report – No report.

Treasurer's Report – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

January 2015 VST test – Plans proceeding. General call for track layers made by chief tracklayer Jean-Maria Higginbotham.

March 2015 TD / TDX tests – Jean-Maria will secretary.

Judges Committee – Need to finalize judging slate for November 2015 TD / TDX tests.

Seminar Committee – No report.

Winter Classes – Begin January 4th. We have 6 beginners and 2 intermediate students.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Dues – No one in attendance at meeting received a dues announcement. Ask Jeanine to send another announcement along with her mailing address. **Members can also bring dues to the January 2015 meeting.**

Seminar Suggestion - Jean-Maria interested in club offering a seminar at Prospering Paws for Corgi people.

Spring Classes – Not clear on date they will start. March 7th?

1st Reading of Carla Coggins's application for regular membership [Sponsors are Charlene Dunn and Benita Zapata.]

Next Meeting – To be held after VST test on Sunday, January 11th. Meeting will begin no earlier than noon, however. Location: La Quinta Inn meeting room, 1809 Highway 121, Bedford, TX 76021.

A motion to adjourn was made and passed. Meeting concluded at 3:12 pm.

Tracy Freeling,

Secretary

TD/TDX TEST

FOSSIL RIDGE RANCH

VALLEY VIEW, TX

Last weekend the DFW Tracking Club held its fall combined TD/TDX test at Fossil Ridge Ranch in Valley View, Texas. The weather was great on both plotting day and test day. We had an entry of 3 TD dogs and 5 TDX dogs (including one alter-nate). Unfortunately, we had only one pass on Sunday. Fortunately, it was our own member Charlene Dunn with her All American Maddie. Congratulations to Charlene and Maddie Dunn TD!

Many thanks to our judges Stephanie Gonyeau and Tom Hacholski, our hosts Kirk and Peggy Kirkland, our Chief Tracklayer Natasha Decker, tracklayers Marian Beck Edwards, Cindy Morrow, Tracy Freeling and Cindi Todd, and cross-tracklayers and flag carriers Laurel Hoevker, Pam Joyce, Benita Zapata and Carla Coggins. It takes many people to make a test successful, and some of these folks wore more than one hat. Thanks again to Peggy and Kirk for transportation, Marian for her wonderful desserts, Charlene for judges' arrangements and hospitality and Carla Coggins for her photography.

Sarah Helber, Test Chair/Secretary

Maddie Dunn TD



Maddie is best we can tell a Border Collie / Basset Hound mix, lovingly named a "Boss-it". I started her tracking when I was getting Vegas and Charlie ready for VST. She started in the night classes in the summer of 2011. She quickly progressed through T level, X level, and V level training, but she got spooked at things such as her line dragging in the grass or in VST, "evil columns" at the college. After Charlie and Vegas got their Champion Tracker titles, she retired with them (as there was no hint that AKC would allow mixed breeds anytime soon), only to be brought out for seminars and classes as her tracking style was EXTREMELY easy for new students to read. When she is on track, the Basset in her takes over and she trots down the track with her white tipped tail pointing the way. When she is upset or having a case of the Border Collie spooks, her tail dips down, she gets low, and any noise causes her to run to the end of her line and hit the ground. This makes tracking a challenge to say the least.

In 2014, the AKC finally allowed mixed breeds to compete in Tracking so I easily registered Maddie; getting certified was another experience. We tried several times but always fell prey to something spooking her; tin roofs, loud speakers at car

lots, grass... In February we were over half way done with a certification track when the monthly weather sirens went off, I thought "Oh Great here we go again", but she never stopped to even acknowledge the sirens. It was like she was finally in a groove. With our 4 "golden tickets" we entered the spring test out at Fossil Ridge. That was not to be our day, when she spooks I usually can get her back once, maybe twice; by the fourth time she was done and going back to the car. We went to Indian Nations next, but the briars were an issue there, with her refusing to move any farther than the first turn. Well... Back to the drawing board. One of the judges suggested maybe we should look into TDU, short grass, less likely to spook.

So after a summer off, we started back training. Our first issue came at play day in



September, it was so hot and the grass was shorter, in fact it had just been cut. Maddie was not interested in tracking at all, so I gave serious thought to the TDU. Since I was not sure how Maddie would do with travel and tracking we spent 2 weekends at a hotel in McKinney. While Vegas worked Earthdog, we tracked at the hotel in the evenings. Maddie was tentative but kept going. We sent off our last 2 "golden tickets" to our fall test at Valley View and to Columbia MO, where they had a TDU open to mixed breeds. As our luck would have it, neither test filled, so we were going to both.

Sunday the 9th of November dawned down right cold, good tracking conditions. We drew track 1 and were promptly trucked off to the "hay fields", the area on the ranch were Ts were laid and not accessible except by mule or truck. Maddie was in a good mood visiting with Peggy, Carla, and the judge as we rode out. We hopped down from the truck and Cindi and Tracy were waiting for us. We stopped briefly to talk with the judges before we approached the start. After the routine of "poison water" we were off to a good start at a steady pace, first turn to the left, another left, a right, and one more left, only this corner we got our line stuck. I quickly called her back and untangled her before she spooked, and then the real test, would she restart? She took off again tentative at first, then picked up speed as she usually does when she is getting close to the glove, and then she stopped and pawed at her glove, we celebrated and she raced back to Cindi who was calling to her across the field, "What a good girl Maddie!"



So what's next... A trip to Missouri...

Maddie Dunn TD TDU

So what does everyone do 1 week after earning their TD? Pack up the car and dogs and head 9 hours north to Missouri of course! I remember the times when you were lucky to get in a test, but recently they have not been filling and since you do not get a refund, why not go for another title. At least that is the logic I reasoned with myself as I started the 9+ hour drive into potentially bad weather. We pulled into the hotel a little after 6pm, checked out the room and headed off to dinner with several fiends who had made the trip for the test too. Next morning dawned (sort of - never really did see sunlight) with warnings of snow, question would be would it hold off until after the test, just like VST, TDU cannot be run in the snow. We were the 3rd draw and got the 3rd track, we watched a team from New Mexico fall first victim to the terrain. Our friends from Texas were next. Shevy started strong and made the first turn, but would not commit to the leg and was soon brought back to the track. Once across the street she motored along and finished quickly. It was our turn. Maddie likes the cold weather, and it was down right freezing that morning. As we got dressed she was shivering. I told her finish quickly so we both can get back into the warm car! We started down the track, made the first turn and got stuck at the parking barriers, she worked the scent back and forth, and tentatively stepped into the parking lot. After some more casting we made it across the street and back to the grass, she cast up the hill, made a big circle and committed to the right hand turn, half way down we found our intermediate article. After that she picked up speed, got to the next left hand turn, took it but got spooked by something. The turn was very near the traffic circle and walking path. We stayed there for what seemed like 30 minutes. She was fascinated with the walkers and their dogs, and the joggers, and the cars coming into the park, basically anything but tracking! By now I was cold and she was showing signs of quitting. I gave her water, re-scented her and urged her to find her glove. She finally worked back up to the corner and down the path following it a little to the right of the track, moments later after we came under a tree, she darted quickly to the left to paw at a grey glove!

Thanks to judges with the patience of Job, the 14+ hour drive (normally 9) home wasn't nearly as painful as it seemed as we trucked through the snow and road closures.

Now what? TDX? VST? BOTH!



TRACKING REGULATION CHANGES

The following *Tracking Regulations* were amended at the October 2014 AKC Board of Directors meeting and will become effective January 1, 2015.

1. The following regulation change will allow participants to wear their club clothing, AKC event clothing or clothing with their name or their dog's name on it:

Chapter 1, Section 8. Clothing/Identification. Club clothing or AKC event wear may be worn by anyone exhibiting a dog or by test workers. Clothing may display the person's name, the dog's call name and/or the dog's picture. Dog specific titles may not be displayed. Writing or graphics on the clothing must not be in poor taste or contain profanity. Clothing must not display any information that would be in conflict with a sponsor of the trial. Note: Tracking titles that appear as part of a club logo are allowed.

2. The following regulation change simplifies the determination of the number of tracks that can be reserved for individuals that have worked for the club at a previous tracking test. The table shown below replaces the current table:

Chapter 1, Section 17d. Test Worker Option. A club may set aside tracks for test workers from previous tests, as defined and identified by the test giving club. This information and the number of tracks to be set aside must be published in the premium list. Entries from workers are to be drawn first, up to the limits shown in the table below. Once the tracks set aside for workers are filled, any remaining test workers entries will be added to the non-worker entries for the draw of the remaining tracks. There will be no separate alternate list for test workers only. A test worker may not benefit from a track set aside at a test in which they are working. Deviations from the table are not permitted for any test.

Total # of Test Tracks Offered	# of Worker Tracks Allowed
1 – 2	0
3 – 5	1
6 – 8	2
9 – 11	3
12 or more	4

3. The following regulation change shortens the minimum required time between plotting and the running of a track from "one day prior to the test" to "at least 12 hours prior to the running of the track." This is at the option of the club.

Chapter 2, Section 4. Plotting. (*paragraph 2*) On the day the tracks are plotted, only the judges, AKC officials, judge applicants, apprentices with prior approval of judges, and those required for the laying of the tracks will be allowed on the tracking field. All other persons connected with the test, such as exhibitors and owners or co-owners of an entered dog, must not be on the tracking field the day tracks are plotted. For each dog entered, a separate track will be plotted by one or both judges for a TD test and by both judges for TDU, TDX and VST tests at least 12 hours prior to the running of the track.

4. The following regulation change clarifies that the dog may be rewarded by allowing it to play with the articles once the final article has been found and the judging of the team is complete. Additionally, there has been a change to the minimum distance that motivational items for a dog may be located compared to the track. Exhibitor's vehicles are often times parked along the roadside where the tracks are being run; and 30 yards is a reasonable distance for these items to be away from the track. Previously the distance was 75 yards.



DFW Tracking Club

C/O Cindi Todd

6861 Greenleaf Dr.

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

Tracking Regulation Changes (cont'd)

Chapter 2, Section 19. Food and Other Motivational Items on the Track. Praise and petting of the dog are allowed after the dog finds the article(s). However, exhibitors will not excessively play with articles as toys, toss them to the dog, or throw them on the ground, which may be construed as a restart. Once the track is complete, playing with any of the articles is allowed.

The only items permitted on the tracking field are those items considered by the judges to be essential to the conduct of the test, and permitted by these Regulations. Judges will not allow motivational items for a dog, including but not limited to food, balls, or toys, to be used or carried within 30 yards of any track. The carrying or use of food or other motivational items for the dog by the handler on a track requires that the dog be failed and excused from the tracking test.

