



Have you paid your DFWTC dues?

Dues are considered late after January 1st and lapsed after January 31st. Send your dues to Charlene Dunn, Treasurer, now!

Find a listing of paid members on page 9.



Maddie's Tail (Tale)
TDX - The End of a Journey?

by Charlene Dunn

Summers in Texas can be a bit "weird". After almost drowning for the entire month of May and part of June, we went into a sauna. Texas heat is not DRY. It was hot, humid, and not at all good weather for Tracking. Especially if you are a black, older, not heat tolerant dog. This makes preparing for fall tests interesting to say the least.



Judge Cathy Hawkins, Judge Linda Baschnagel,
 Tracklayer Sandy Watson (not pictured),
 Charlene & Maddie

As the hot August moved into even hotter September, we tracked as early as we could, always in our cool coat and always working just elements, not full tracks. Try as we might, Maddie was miserable and her tracking showed it. This was very discouraging.

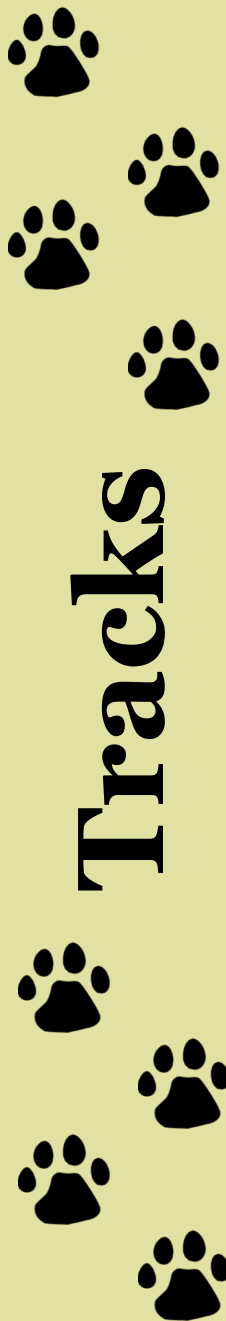
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DFW TRACKING CLUB

Tracks



Next Meeting
Sunday, January 17, 2016

following the VST -
 no earlier than noon

La Quinta - Bedford
1809 Hwy 121
Bedford, Texas 76021

President's Message

Finally - good tracking weather has arrived! I hope everyone and their dog(s) have taken the time to get out and do some tracking.

As you know, we had an abbreviated "Practice Day" in the LBJ Grasslands on October 25 due to the heavy rains. More information is included in this issue of *Tracks*.

We held our annual Christmas Party on December 12. As usual, it was an afternoon of good food, good fun and good folks. Thanks to our hosts Susan Norvell and her husband Bill (not to mention labs Hunter, Jet and Calli).

Marian Beck-Edwards and I started our Winter Classes on January 3. It was a lovely day for a January class, and it appears to be a good group of people and dogs.

Our winter VST will be held January 16-17 at TCCNE campus and the Texas Health Resources H-E-B hospital. We have 6 entries for the 7 possible tracks. Charlene Dunn is the Test Chair/Secretary, with judges Mitzi Young and Jean Hilbig. Let Charlene know if you can help. The test will be followed by a meeting.

We're down to the wire in planning our spring combined TD/TDX, to be held the weekend of March 12-13. We're planning on using a unit in the LBJ National Grasslands for that test. I hope it works out well - you just never know until you really use the land. I have been working closely with the US Forest Service to make sure it meets our needs and theirs. Charlene Dunn is also the Test Chair/Secretary for this test. If you can help out on this test, by all means let her know.

We are still looking for a place to hold our November TD/TDX. November is hunting season in the LBJ Grasslands, so that's not an option on our specified weekend in the fall. We need to either find a place or change the weekend - and neither of these is easy. Soooo . . . if any of you know someone with lots of land, touch base with them to see if we could use it a weekend or two during the year!

Don't forget that dues were due January 1!

I hope everyone has a fun and successful 2016!

Sarah

Tracking Classes

The 8-week Winter Tracking Class got off to a great start Sunday, January 3. The day was clear with very little wind. The temperature was a crisp 31 at sunrise and a balmy 56 as the Intermediates finished shortly after noon. Instructors Marian Beck-Edwards and Sarah Helber have a full roster. There are three Beginners – a Border Collie, a Cardigan Welsh Corgi and a Rottweiler. There are eight in the Intermediate Class – a Bloodhound, a Cairn Terrier, a Cardigan Welsh Corgi, a German Shepherd Dog, a Golden Retriever, two Labrador Retrievers (one black and one yellow) and a Newfoundland.



Our thanks to Marian and Sarah and to all the others who willingly share their time and expertise as instructors, substitute instructors, and class helpers. We appreciate you!

Practice Day at the LBJ National Grasslands

by Sarah Helber



On Sunday, October 25, a small group of us went to Unit 49 of the LBJ National Grasslands to gain experience with the site for a possible March test. We had hoped to open the Practice Day to all who wanted to come, as well as hold a meeting on the site, so that everyone could see it and get their dogs' noses on the ground there. We had plenty of volunteers to lay tracks and cross-tracks and do hospitality. We were ready to go, but that was just not to be. It rained 3.5" (total) during the three days before, and we were not confident enough of the parking situation for a full event. Both David Bull and Pam Joyce had asked to have tracks laid for them at the Practice Day, so we narrowed the scope to the two of them, Charlene and me. This particular unit of the LBJ Grasslands is fenced in and, although I had made arrangements with the US Forest Service to have the gate opened for us, we weren't sure how good the road into the area would be after that much rain, and I was sure that there was room for 4 cars to park outside the gates. In that respect we were pleasantly surprised.

The day turned out to be a perfect tracking day for October - high in the mid 60's, damp ground. All four of us were able to drive the entire length of FS 910 (the road down the middle of the unit). Because FS 910 leads to a working wellhead, it is maintained (somewhat), but we were instructed not ever to block the road. We were able to park along the road with two wheels still on the gravel and two off when laying track or running. That provided sufficient clearance, and allowed us good access to the different areas.

When we got there, there was a car parked near the gate. Later we met the fellow it belonged to - a bow hunter. He was interested in what we were doing (and wondered how we'd gotten our cars into the Unit). I told him we had tracked down a Forest Service fellow to work with on our future test.


We discovered that the area nearest the gate has quite a bit of prickly pear, but that fades out to a low clumpy grass with scattered prickly pear, yucca and who knows what. At first I laid Miles a short track near the entrance, but discovered the prickly pear. I moved over a bit and laid another. There was still prickly pear, but nothing unreasonable. If anything, it slowed Miles down a bit - he quickly discovered it wasn't smart to blast ahead the way he likes. I understand David and Wally got into some somewhere on their track.

Charlene spent some time wandering along the tree line of the creek bed, looking at obstacle possibilities. Pam and I laid Wally's cross-tracks and walked down the oil and gas road that takes off from FS 910. It is supposed to end in a decommissioned wellhead, but we didn't get that far.

We could have spent even more time, but we needed to get back to Fort Worth for the meeting that we had moved to a Firehouse Subs location near I-35W and US-287. I hope to get out there some more this winter and get to see what possibilities there are for the future.

Anyone wanting to check it out should know that the vehicle gate is usually chained closed (due to the oil and gas facility). There is an unchained gate for people (and dogs) just to the right of the vehicle gate, and there is a small area outside the gate that's usable for parking. It doesn't have an address, but the GPS coordinates are approximately 33.319094, -97585176. To get there you can take US-380 about a mile east of 287 to FM 730, turn left (northeast) for about 3 1/4 miles on FM 730 to CR 2360, then turn left (north) on CR 2360 for about 2 1/4 miles to the entrance to Unit 49. The gate is almost at a continuation of CR 2360, since CR 2360 makes a sharp left turn at that point. Should you go there, wear bright colors and harnesses if it's hunting season and please be sure not to block the road or the vehicle gate. There are some pictures of the site on our website.

JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						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 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1		3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

EVENTS

January 17: VST DFW Tracking Club Bedford, TX - Closed

January 31: TD
Santa Teresa, NM - Closes Jan. 14
Sandra Hill
seranadehill@aol.com

February 14: TD, TDU, TDX
Houston, TX - Closes Feb. 4
Marsha McCaddon
macbuzz2@yahoo.com

February 14: TDX
El Paso, TX - closes Feb. 4
Pam Dundes
pcdundes@earthlink.net

February 14: TDX
Sullivan, MO - Closes Feb. 4
Pat Thayer
conobra@gmail.com

February 21: TD, TDX
Littleton, CO - Closes Feb. 11
Jennifer Mahaffey
jmahaffey@gmail.com

February 28: TD, TDU, TDX, VST
Fort Worth, TX - Closes Feb. 15
Judy Jackson
jjblitz@hotmail.com

February 28: TDX
Smithville, MO - Closes Feb. 18
Lisa Kramer
lksscottis@kc.rr.com

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
 20	14	15	16		18	19
	28	29	30	31		

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	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		23
24	25	26	27	28		30

EVENTS

March 6: TD
Smithville, MO - Closes Feb. 25
Rosi von Fintel
rvonfintel@kc.rr.com

March 6: TD, TDX
Littleton, CO - Closes Feb. 25
Betty Pearce
ancestorhound9@hotmail.com

March 13: TD, VST
Sullivan, MO - Closes March 3
Sandi Thompson
gatewaytracking@yahoo.com

March 13: TDX
Placitas, NM - Closes March 2
Mr. Lynn Wilson
lynn@swcp.com

March 13: TD, TDX
Littleton, CO - Closes March 2/3
Lynn Kaemmerer
badblackcorgi@gmail.com

March 13: TD, TDX
DFW Tracking Club
Decatur, TX - Closes March 3
Charlene Dunn
crdslabs@yahoo.com

March 20: TD, TDX
Houston, TX - Closes March 10
Marsha McCaddon
macbuzz2@yahoo.com

March 27: VST
Tulsa, OK - Closes March 16
Jane Wittstock D.V.M.
intcinfo@juno.com

March 27: TDX
Littleton, CO - Closes March 9
Lynn Kaemmerer
none@none.com

April 3: TD
Littleton, CO - Closes March 16
Diane Thomson
dianethomson01@comcast.net

April 3: VST
Springfield, MO - Closes March 24
Tom Hawkins
Hawkins.tom@mchsi.com

April 10: TD, TDU, TDX, VST
Forth Worth, TX - Closes March 23
Judy Jackson
jjblitz@hotmail.com

April 10: TD, VST
Sullivan, MO - Closes March 31
Sandi Thomson
gatewaytracking@yahoo.com

April 24: VST
Golden, CO - Closes April 6
Martha Rosner
martharosner@gmail.com

April 24: TD, TDU, TDX
Houston, TX - Closes April 14
Pat Sayles
saylesbeagles@yahoo.com

DFWTC Club Meeting Minutes

For Approval

Minutes of the December 12, 2015 DFW Tracking Club Meeting

Susan Norvell's home, 1025 Allen Road, Red Oak, TX 75154

Sarah Helber, President, called the meeting to order at 3:29 p.m.

In attendance were members Charlene Dunn, Tracy Freeling, Sarah Helber, Laurel Hovker, Pam Joyce and Susan Norvell.

The minutes of the October 25, 2015, meeting were approved as published on the dfwtrackers Yahoo Group.

President's Report

Sarah thanked Susan and Bill Norvell for hosting the meeting and Christmas party again this year
Sarah thanked those attending the meeting
No Board action has been taken since the last meeting

Secretary's Report

No report

Treasurer's Report

The report was passed around for review
Charlene reminded members that dues are due January 1, 2016
Regular membership \$20
Associate membership \$15
Household membership \$30

Committee Reports

Judges' Committee

Committee needs to meet
Signed contracts from John and Darlene Barnard for the March 13, 2016, test have not yet been received
Charlene will follow up

Election of New Members

First reading of the Membership Application received from Pat McGowan
Requesting Associate Membership

Unfinished Business

Newsletter

Q2 2015 has not yet been posted to the dfwtrackers Yahoo Group

Winter Classes

Sarah Helber and Marian Beck-Edwards will be the instructors
Classes will begin January 3 and continue for 8 weeks

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DFWTC Club Meeting Minutes

For Approval ~ continued

Registration began December 1 and, to date, there are

1 Beginner

6 Intermediate

Starter sets needed

March TD/TDX, March 13, 2016

Chair/Secretary – Charlene Dunn

Judges – John and Darlene Barnard

Waiting for signed contracts

Will stay with Charlene

Location – Unit 49, LBJ Grasslands

Sarah will talk with Marc Pons (Forest Service contact) after January 1, 2016

Committee members still needed

Port-a-Potty

Sarah will make arrangements

Test Locations

It was noted that the club needs to continue looking for land for our November 2016 test

Discussion followed

Sarah and Charlene will continue evaluating possible locations

VST, January 17, 2016

Charlene Dunn is the Chair/Secretary

Judges - Mitzi Young and Jean Hilbig

Will stay with Charlene

Hospitality – Pam Joyce

Charlene will get hospitality supplies/equipment from Carla

No entries have been received at this time

DFWTC Logo Tee Shirts and other apparel

No report from Carla at this time

New Business

Next Meeting

January 17, 2016 following VST

LaQuinta – Bedford

1809 Hwy 121

Bedford, TX 76021

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. Meeting concluded at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Hoevker

Secretary

TDX - The End of a Journey?

We are limited on the tests we can enter (not all tests are open to All-Americans) so we were looking at 1 test in MO in Oct, 1 test in CO in Nov and that was it for the year. After a long conversation of hemming and hawing we entered Springfield MO and prayed for cool weather.

On Saturday October 3, 2015 I headed north; the forecast was for mild weather. This was not what I wanted to hear... Once settled into the hotel, Maddie curled up on the bed to sleep. She apparently was not worried about what the next day would bring. I on the other hand was trying desperately to drown out the noises coming through the walls. REALLY PEOPLE GET A ROOM! Oh wait they had one... Dang it... So all night I laid there with the TV on and a pillow over my head, and seriously thought about telling the hotel to burn those sheets! Needless to say there was no sleep for me... A luxury or a curse depending on your perspective (a.k.a nerves) is that TDX tests don't start early for entrants.

Dog tired and bleary eyed we left the hotel and arrived at the test site. The day was misting a bit and cloudy (GOOD!) but we had our cool coat just in case. Weather can change drastically between when the Ts and the Xs run. Since the Ts were still running, we "hung out" at the ranch house. It is a beautiful old house that has a carriage house and is on some amazing land. There were only 3 TDX entries and I knew one of the entrants so we chatted while we waited for everyone to return. Soon the house was full of tracklayers, TD entrants, and of course the 3 people looking green in the corner...

It was time... We drew track 2. The caravans loaded and we all followed the judges' car to our perch to watch the first track. As we are standing out in the fields the wind picked up and the temperature dropped (YES!). Unfortunately that dog did not pass. It was our turn. The judges came for us and we followed them away from the crowd, down a road to a driveway and a flag in the field. Deep breath.

I got out of the car and opened the back end, I looked at Maddie's cool coat soaking in cold water and thought long and hard about putting it on her, maybe I should take it with me just in case. At this time the wind blew across the car and Maddie shivered (perfect!). I know... at this time you are saying to yourself "This woman is crazy!", but trust me, cold weather suits us. So we harnessed up without the coat and walked over to the judges. They asked if I had any questions and I said "How would you like me to approach?" With that they showed me where they wanted us to enter the field and we went into routine mode. Sit, poison water, attach harness, "Ok let's go find it!" The first leg was a dream. She hit the start flag, sat, and then took off, never a doubt on the direction, as we walked down the hill there was ever the hint of dew on the grass. Her left hand turn was perfect and we soon were at another left, but here is where the track got interesting. About a quarter of the way up the field Maddie stopped. She checked left, right, left, circled, peed, but wouldn't move. I thought for sure we were at a cross track. Finally we moved on, up the hill to a right hand turn and were rewarded with a set of ear muffs! A little farther down the leg and we hit another "obstacle". This was what I thought were the



2nd set of cross tracks (if they were cross tracks, they weren't planned by the judges). Maddie made a quick turn and went up to the woods and stopped. From here we spent several minutes checking out an opening in the woods, moving around it, coming back down the hill a bit, forward (the correct way the track went) was a lot of tall grass, her least favorite thing, so back to the woods we went. At this time I took up my line figuring we were going in, but she stopped. Reason set in (if you can call it that) and I looked at the woods, saw a boot print but no way to get out, so I watered her, re-scent her and told her to "find it". At that point we moved out towards the tall grass, she skirted it and then moved back onto the track. Soon we were at another decision point, straight? Right? Or left up the hill? Let me stop here and say something about trust and your relationship with your dog.

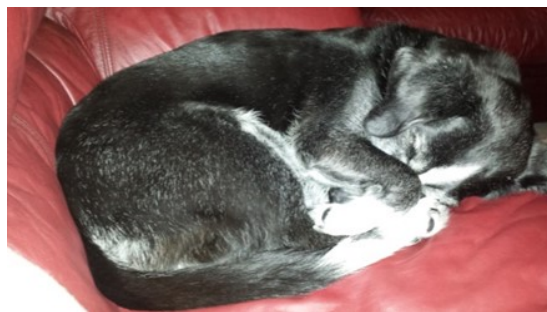
The picture above is us at this decision point, taken by the judges as they watched us work. If I had not trusted

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Maddie to do her job, I could have pushed her up into those woods or at this point pushed her in the wrong direction. There is another decision point coming up in this story where I could have failed my dog. Tracking is a team sport, and most of the time the handler takes a back seat to the dog!

Maddie chose left and quickly motored half way up the hill to a sock. As we crested the hill, I noticed we were in the field across from where the gallery was watching. We were back in the tall grass again, and I was doing the math: 5 turns, 2 intermediate articles, 2 cross tracks and 1 obstacle. Hmm where had the other obstacle been? Was there still one left? We were closing in on TDX length, had enough turns, had the articles, had the cross tracks, it was time for a glove. We moved into the field. Maddie was not going fast as she was not happy about the tall grass and then she started circling. We were at another decision point: left took us to the other track, straight was the fence, and to the right was some woods and possibly another fence. Maddie chose right and picked up speed. Now I was really looking for a glove. All of a sudden we were at the woods and she moved into them. Through the 2nd set of trees was the coveted glove! She stopped, pawed, and we turned to the judges as the First CT All-American team. You could hear horns in the distance, so the gallery must have seen the judges signal the pass. Now it was time to relax and watch the other team.

As luck would have it, AKC crowned 2 CT All-Americans on the same day. The other dog was a VST entrant in Salt Lake City Utah. That team finished 24 minutes before our draw; however, Maddie is still the 1st All-American with all 5 titles (TD, TDU, TDX, VST, CT), and it was completed in less than 1 year; a historic end for an unlikely Champion. What's next? Couch potato!



DFWTC 2016 Dues Paid

Hello Fellow Trackers. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank those who have paid their dues early and remind those who have yet to pay that dues are due January 1st. The following members have paid:

Nancy Barclay - Full
Marian Beck-Edwards - Full
David and Marla Bull - Household
Carla Coggins - Household (George Loucks pending receipt of membership application and vote)
Charlene Dunn - Full
Tracy Freeling - Full
Sarah Helber - Full
Jean-Maria Higginbotham - Full
Laurel Hoevker - Full
Pam Joyce - Full
Pat McGowan - Associate (pending vote)
Cindy Morrow - Associate
Marsha Muse - Associate
Susan Norvell - Full
Cindi Todd - Full
Benita Zapata - Full
Debra Duncan - Honorary
Gillian Salling - Honorary

Charlene Dunn, DFWTC Treasurer

Note from the Editor

My thanks to Sarah, Charlene and Susan who submitted articles for this issue of *Tracks* and sent them to me in a timely fashion. As I said last time, I am not a writer. The success of *Tracks* is really up to **YOU**. I am counting on you to submit articles about your tracking experiences (with pictures) and any other information you think should be included this quarterly publication.

As requested, beginning with this issue we will be sharing a favorite recipe each quarter. Our first recipe for Summer Squash Casserole is submitted by creator Susan Norvell. *Please note: there are RULES:*

Recipe Rules: The recipes shared here are original creations or favorite recipes. We are sure these dishes will become your favorites also. Please do not bring one of these dishes to a DFWTC covered dish event as the person who submitted the recipe may very well be planning to bring it. Thank you!

The next issue of *Tracks* will be published and posted mid-April. Please forward your articles or a favorite recipe for the Q1 2016 *Tracks* to me by April 8. Sooner would be greatly appreciated. My email address is ljh604@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you for helping make *Tracks* an informative, timely publication.

Happy Tracking! Laurel



Rainbow Bridge

In Loving Memory of:

**Gillian Salling's "Greta" von Fernheim, TD, BH
and
Nancy Barclay's "Maru"**

Summer Squash Casserole

submitted by Susan Norvell

- 1 1/2 lb. yellow squash
- 1 lb. zucchini
- 1 small sweet onion, chopped
- 2 tsp. salt, divided
- 1 c. grated carrots
- 1 (10 3/4 oz.) can cream of chicken soup
- 1 (8 oz.) sour cream
- 1 (8 oz.) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. herb-seasoned stuffing
- 1/2 c. butter, melted



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut squash and zucchini into 1/4 inch slices; place in a Dutch oven. Add chopped onion, 1 tsp. salt, and water to cover. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat and cook 5 minutes; drain well. Stir together 1 cup grated carrots, next 3 ingredients, and remaining 1 tsp. salt in a large bowl; fold in squash mixture. Stir together stuffing and 1/2 cup melted butter and spoon half of the stuffing mixture in the bottom of a lightly greased 13x9 baking dish. Spoon squash mixture over stuffing mixture and top with remaining stuffing mixture. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until bubbly and golden brown, shielding with aluminum foil after 20 to 25 minutes to prevent excessing browning if necessary. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Makes 8 servings.



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