



In Memoriam

Sadly, the DFW tracking community suffered two losses in the first half of 2015.

David Meredith, who has been an important part of the Texas tracking community for many years, passed away on March 2, 2015. For many years David was a very active AKC tracking judge and exhibitor (with his Labs). Many tracking teams in the area have been certified by him, and have tested (and even passed) under him as a judge. Some have trained under him and attended seminars given by him. David was a big part of the formation of Southwest Tracking Association in the Houston area as well. An obituary for David can be found by searching for David (Lawrence) Meredith in the "obituaries" section at www.dignitymemorial.com



"Kirk" Kirkland, owner of Fossil Ridge Ranch (along with his wife Peggy), passed away on May 7, 2015. While David Meredith was known to most Texas tracking enthusiasts, Kirk was not a tracking person at all. Kirk just loved dogs, people, and he loved to share his ranch with those who appreciated it. Kirk added a great deal to the tracking tests that the DFW Tracking Club held at Fossil Ridge Ranch - whether it be bringing in a propane heater on a cold day, getting the tractor out to get a tracklayer's van "unstuck", adding a gate to make a field more useful or borrowing an additional 4 wheeler to help with transportation for a particularly muddy test. An obituary for Kirk (Wilbur Kirkland) can be found by searching the "obituaries" section at www.gainesvilleregister.com for "Wilbur Luman Kirkland".



Next Meeting

Date: August 22, 2015

Time: 1pm.

Location:

La Madeleine

900 Hwy 114,

Grapevine, TX 76051

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President's Message

It is hard to believe the first half of the year went by so quickly. Weren't we just celebrating full tests, full classes? Now we are mourning the loss of members and "celebrating" their lives. As with all the other articles and posts about David and Kirk, I wanted to add my 2 cents worth. These were special people.

I can remember David with his Labs tracking in the DOTC tests in McKinney & Allen. What a loss it will be not to see him certifying dogs, entering tests, and giving back to a sport he loved.

The first time I met Peggy and Kirk was in the freezing cold rain when we came up to look at their farm. Peggy was so excited at the possibility of helping us find new land as we had just lost our site in Ennis. Kirk was excited that Peggy was excited! Kirk and Peggy gave so much to us: land, shelter, transportation, and best of all manpower that we so desperately needed to conduct tests. We will miss Kirk for all he did for us as referenced in the pictures in this newsletter.

Once again I am asking our club to step up and help where we have lost friends. Please be mindful that it takes a village to hold a tracking test! —Charlene Dunn



Letter from the Editor

Have you ever been surprised by the amount of heart and drive your dog has? Zubie surprised me recently. He went outside and came in on 3 legs. Lots of vet consults later, we had confirmation he had a fully torn cruciate ligament in the right knee. The original injury happened on a soaking wet thunderstorm day at a TDX test in Fort Worth. On the very first leg I saw Zubie's left leg go down in a hole so deep his entire leg dropped in. He kept right on going. He was out a few months after that for a sprained left leg but was hiding the right knee injury.

So TPLO surgery and then a long recovery and rehab of several months. I hope to have Zubie back tracking in time for the VST test in January. Davy will start tracking this fall when Zubie is ready to come back. I am really looking forward to seeing how he enjoys tracking.

On a sad note, I want to add my thoughts on Kirk Kirkland's passing. He was a one in a million kind of guy and clearly loved his land and loved Peggy. I will always smile when I think of him laughing while imitating Peggy saying "C'mon girls". He so loved to tell stories.

One more memory to share, Kirk was a gentle man and a gentleman. If you ever had the chance to see him interact with Jeanine's son, you know why I say he was a good and gentle man.

Happy Tracking Everyone!

Jean-Maria

JULY, 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	

EVENTS

July 19: TDU-Greeley, CO closes July 09
Elaine Verdill (970) 686-1077



AUGUST, 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
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29



August 30: TD-Hampshire, IL closes
August 12 Ms. Karen Johnson
equiterv@frontier.com



SEPTEMBER, 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			

OCTOBER, 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

EVENTS

- Sept 06: TD/TDX-Elgin, IL closes Aug 19
Ingrid Hamburger i.hamburger@att.net
- Sept 13: VST-Lincolnshire, IL closes Sept 03
Mrs. Nancy Foster
nfoster1080@sbcglobal.net
- Sept 13: VST-Overland Park, KS closes Sept 03
Rosi Von Fintel
rvonfintel@kc.rr.com
- Sept 13: VST-Denver, CO closes Sept 03
Karri Britton rahwynd@comcast.net
- Sept 20: TD/TDU-Gray Summit, MO closes Sept 10
Tanya Kucaba
tanyakucaba@gmail.com
- Sept 20: TDX-Barrington Hills, IL closes Sept 10
Ms. Sheryl Phelps
sheryl2533@att.net
- Sept 27: VST-De Kalb, IL closes Sept 08
Lisa Foltz avantidogs@comcast.net

- Oct 04: TD/TDX-Springfield, MO closes Sept 24
Mr. Tom Hawkins
hawkins.tom@mchsi.com
- Oct 04: VST-Lincolnshire, IL closes Sept 24
Mrs. Ursula Hoeft
ursula@u.northwestern.edu
- Oct 04: VST-Golden, CO closes Sept 16
Mr. Martha Rosner
martharosner@gmail.com
- Oct 18: TDX-Littleton, CO closes Oct 08
Ellen O'Connell oconnel4@ix.netcom.com
- Oct 18: TDX-Cherry Valley, IL closes Sept 30
Mrs. Emily Nie ricordanza@charter.net
- Oct 18: TD/TDX/VST-University Park, IL closes Oct 05
Cindy Childers
cindyfive0@aol.com
- Oct 18: TD/VST-Sullivan, MO closes Oct 08
Sandi Thompson
gatewaytracking@yahoo.com
- Oct 18: TD-Littleton, CO closes Oct 08
Ellen O'Connell oconnel4@ix.netcom.com
- Oct 25: TD/TDX/VST -De Kalb, IL closes Oct 13
Ms. Donna Eichman
desertlab21@yahoo.com

DFWTC Club Meeting Minutes

Approved

Minutes of June 13, 2015 DFW Tracking Club Meeting

Olive Garden Restaurant, 4001 West Airport Freeway, Irving, TX

Sarah Helber, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

In attendance were members Carla Coggins, Sarah Helber, Laurel Hoevker, Pam Joyce, and Cindi Todd. Guest was George Loucks, Carla's husband.

Minutes of the March 8 meeting were approved as published on the dfwtrackers Yahoo! Group.

President's Report, given by Sarah Helber in Charlene Dunn's absence -

The following decisions were made by the Board of Directors:

- Nominating Committee was appointed – Charlene Dunn, Laurel Hoevker and Pam Joyce
- Flowers were sent for Kirk Kirkland's memorial service and to Gillian Salling for her surgery

Sarah Helber read a note from Peggy Kirkland thanking the club for the flowers, cards, and expressions of sympathy.

Secretary's Report – No report

Treasurer's Report – No report

Report of Committees

Judges Committee – 2016 VST Judges have been hired

- Jean Hilbig and Mitzi Young
- Fall TD/TDX judges (Barnards) are on stand-by pending a new site

Budget Committee – will meet prior to the annual meeting

Seminar Committee – Tracy Dulock from Waco has requested we offer a "Step" weekend seminar to be led by Charlene Dunn

Nominating Committee – There were no additional nominations from the floor so the slate of officers stands as published:

President - Sarah Helber
Vice-President - Tracy Freeling
Treasurer - Charlene Dunn
Secretary - Laurel Hoevker
Board Member at Large - Pam Joyce

Unfinished Business

Newsletters

- Q4 2014 ready to publish
- Q1 2015 has not been sent to Cindi for proofing
- Jean-Maria has asked if there is someone else to take it on

Fall Test, November 7 and 8, 2015

- Sarah Helber will ask AKC for a one month extension on the June 26 application date while we finalize the land and judges

Test Committee

- Need Chair, Secretary and additional members
- Carla Coggins and Laurel Hoevker will serve on Test Committee
- Carla Coggins and George Loucks accepted Hospitality responsibilities

DFWTC Club Meeting Minutes (continued)

Approved

Fall Class

- Charlene Dunn suggested, in absentia, that we offer a 1 month class in October
- Instructors are needed

New Business

New Land

- Cindi Todd, Pat McGowen, and Carla Coggins will further research possible locations
- Cindi Todd noted that TCC-NorthWest is a possibility but not ideal

Letter was received from AKC outlining *AKC Marketplace* – an AKC website store-front designed to help clubs attract spectators to events and turn them into active members (cost: \$99 per year)

- Sarah Helber and Carla Coggins commented that our tracking club would not benefit from this type of advertising
- All present agreed

The DFW Tracking Club GUIDE TO TRACKING (August 12, 2007) needs to be updated

- This publication is designed to be given to landowners so they know what to expect as they consider letting the DFWTC use their land
- Sarah Helber will find out who has the original

Facebook presence was discussed

- There was not much interest expressed

Next meeting will be the annual meeting in August

- Possible locations are Olive Garden at Irving Mall or La Madeleine's
- Sarah will check out the La Madeleine's facility and requirements
- Date to be determined

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. Meeting concluded at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Hovker in the absence of Tracy Freeling



Miles TD is now Miles TD TDU

Tracking is my favorite dog sport. It's also a good sport for puppies, so my youngster Miles, aka Waldenmark Nose for Fashion Qui Rit, and I started early and have been working diligently. Miles earned his TD title at the 2014 National in Ohio, and we'd been working hard to be ready for the TDX this year in Pennsylvania.

I felt we were ready for TDX, and we tried a few times - at Fossil Ridge Ranch, in Houston, and near Lake Texoma. We didn't pass. Something always came up, and TDX is not just about meeting the requirements, but also about overcoming whatever else comes up.

The heat was also getting to Miles. Because TDX tracks have to age at least 3 hours before running, and most are not the sort of track that can be laid in the dark, it was getting warm by the time we ran. On top of that, Miles probably puts too much enthusiasm into his tracking. Maybe he'll slow down some as he gets older, but now he doesn't slow down when he should.

And finally, while I felt Miles's tracking skills were good, he needed more focus for TDX. He apparently wasn't quite ready for new environments - especially those with mice and geese and water hazards!

I have been working Miles all along with VST in mind as well as TDX. So we went back to working in parks, on both vegetative and non-vegetative surfaces. Parks are great for working distractions.

When I received the premium list for the Basset Hound Club of America Regional Tracking Test I considered entering the TDX, but feared that it would be just too hot on Easter Sunday. Then it occurred to me that I could enter the TDU (Tracking Dog Urban) test. The TDU is an "optional titling tracking test" that was introduced in 2014. It is similar to the

TD in length and track age, but has an intermediate article, requires that the track be 10% - 30% non-vegetative (but doesn't allow a turn on a non-vegetative surface), and allows the handler to be 10' behind the dog rather than 20' (I wouldn't go through a parking lot 20' behind my dog!). I felt that we had the skills required, that the intermediate article would be motivational, and that the track would be run earlier in the day (since it didn't have to age as long) and thus it would be cooler.

I really didn't expect to get into the test, since Miles's prior TD put him in the second tier for the draw, but we did. As it turned out, Easter Sunday was cool and rainy! Just getting to south Fort Worth for the draw at daybreak in the pouring rain was not much fun. We drew the third TDU track. The first two TDU's ran in the rain, but it had pretty much let up by the time we ran. Miles started well and did well until we reached the first non-vegetative surface - crossing a road on the diagonal near an intersection. Miles dithered a little, then dashed over to the stop sign and ate most of a chicken bone someone had left behind. I did manage to get some of it out of his mouth. I knew I couldn't throw it away, because he would run after it, so I put it in my pack and we went back to work.

He made it across the street, found the track, then charged hard down a slope towards a ditch (that was a little scary) to a sock in the middle of a grassy area. That was great - he was motivated and so was I after our experience at the road. He



Watermark's Brave At Heart TD

It was with mixed emotion that I entered Gryff in his first AKC competition at Fossil Ridge Ranch. I was thrilled that we managed to pass our certifying track in time to Fed Ex his entry in before closing—thank you, Charlene, for stopping off in Waco! I was so excited to launch his competition career at a familiar place with friendly faces. And it was my return to dog sports after sitting on the sidelines for a few years, so I was more than ready to be back in the thick of things.

But...returning to FRR would be bitter-sweet. Sixteen months prior, along with my older Retrievers, EZ and Ranger, I had driven up to FRR to work the November 2013 Combined T/X Test. Ranger and I had taken DFWTC classes for the past two years, so I was happy to carry flags and be a cross track layer. At that time I was second on the list for an amazing litter of Labs—my first ever performance puppy—due to be born around New Year's Day, so I was looking forward to having three dogs in the house in a few months time.

I'm glad I didn't know that was our last overnight road trip together. About a month later I suddenly lost EZ to cancer of the spleen. She was 14, but it still took me by surprise—we had to let her go the same day she was diagnosed. A few days later I found out there was a problem with the Lab breeding and, although the bitch was fine, there would be no puppies. And six months after that I lost 13-year-old Ranger almost as suddenly as EZ to an aggressive form of pancreatic cancer.

Needless to say, I don't remember much for the three months that followed, not until Gryff came home with me in September 2014. Over a year of looking and I had failed to get a puppy from three prior litters, but 4th time was the charm; he was the right dog at the right time. I had never trained a puppy to track before but Gryff was a natural. He didn't get his tracking harness until Christmas and now I'm kicking myself for not buying him a puppy harness sooner—he turned corners on rails and at speed. I actually thought he was ready for certification in late January, but literally the day after I emailed Charlene to set a date, he woke up an air scenting dog—



Gryffindor TD (continued)

woohoo! (Not.) It took another month to “fix” that issue, and Charlene did some much-needed psychological work on me to boot. When we passed our Cert Track on the first attempt it was a new milestone for each of us!

Now I had to stay calm for two more weeks. I was nervous about our first ever test and Gryff’s first overnight motel stay. We had to find an ATV to make sure Gryff would ride in it (he would). It didn’t help that north Texas got a crazy 5-6 inches of snow the week before and I discovered Gryff was a wimp when it came to performing his “down” indication in the cold and wet. Almost every bite he ate that week had to be earned by “downing” at an article either indoors or out—I know, overkill.

Test day was cold, crisp and clear and all the snow had melted—ideal conditions for Gryff—yes! With only two TD entries and the other a bitch in heat, we automatically drew the first track, which was great because my stomach was just ready to get it all over with. An old friend living in the area who I hadn’t seen since college made it in, and she even got a seat on one of the ATVs to come out and watch our track.

The track itself plays back in my head like a dream. As soon as I gave the “find it” command, Gryff put his nose down and took off, pulling me along like a kite. I’m not normally a psychic, otherworldly person, but from my first step I felt the strong presence of Ranger riding at my right shoulder and EZ at my left, with mighty Gryffindor effortlessly dragging all three of us, all his focus forward. My vision narrowed to just the track and my dog; the only sound I heard was my own breath.

Six minutes, 490 yards and four turns later, Gryff stopped and immediately laid down. I remember running up, seeing the glove and jumping up and down and hugging him. Other than a quick check in the wrong direction on the first turn, he had been dead on the



track the whole time. It was like I had been an assistant in a really cool Vegas magic show. Good Dog!! Gryffindor wins the House Cup!!! At seven-and-a-half months of age, Gryff became the first TD in the family. It was the six month anniversary of the day I had brought him home. He was the first dog in his litter of seven performance pups to title. Granted, none of the others track, but I was still over the moon!

TDX and VST are both definitely in our future. Practicing takes more time to set up and we have more variables to train. But I’m learning to be a smarter track layer, and to love handing over the control to Gryff as much as he loves taking it. He will be a multi-sport dog, but watching him track is so fascinatingly different from anything else we do. I plan for tracking to be a regular part of Gryff’s life for many years to come.



DFW Tracking Club

C/O Cindi Todd

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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

Miles TD TDU (continued)

continued on, made a turn to go behind a building, crossed over a sidewalk and went over to check out the edge of a buried utility closet next to the building. I was worried that he was varminting (although his tail wasn't going fast and furiously). Maybe something about the rat traps on either side of the utility closet made me think of that. It seemed like an eternity - we worked our way almost out of the area several times, but then he would come back to the utility closet. Once I pulled out the start article to re-scent him, but the chicken bone remains flew out with it - so we had that discussion again. Finally he went on, crossed another sidewalk, found his track and made another turn to the very soggy glove. He and I were both excited to see that glove, and Miles was now **Waldenmark Nose for Fashion Qui Rit TD TDU**.

I do wish Miles and I could have a discussion about that track. I really didn't see in him what I was used to seeing on the hard surface work. We had not worked around buildings much at all. In fact, I was a bit surprised to see how much there was. We also had not worked non-vegetative surfaces in the rain, and it had rained hard - my final glove was still soggy the next day. In retrospect, I wonder if the run-off might have confused him. And we had not really worked tracks that were that "hot" - especially combined with the cool weather. I was glad we had entered, and pleased that both of us were able to deal with "whatever came up" on that day.



Photo credit: Terry Vitt