



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!



DFWTC members earn new TITLES: Carson Albright and Argos - TDU and TD Pam Joyce and Laila - TDU Pandora Galbraith and Ripley - TD



DFW TRACKING CLUB

Tracks



Argos TDU by Carson Albright

I feel like the experience of learning to track is a bit of a rollercoaster. When I first started to learn tracking with Charlene, I felt as if I had no idea what I was doing. I remember my strategy for the beginner class would be to grab the end of the line and hope Argos walked in the right direction, and if he didn't I would wait until he eventually made his way to the correct direction. Luckily Argos never stayed in one spot for too long, so it seemed to work out well. By the end of my beginner class I was feeling like I sort of had the hang of this tracking thing, that is until I started the winter class with Sarah and Marian. I remember being surprised when Marian became frustrated that Argos wasn't tracking while we were walking my track, and yelling at me to use my line handling. Charlene had taught us line handling and I thought I had paid attention, but when and where to use it seemed to have slipped out of my head in-between courses. All of a sudden I felt like a beginner again, confused at what I was supposed



continued on page 3

Next Meeting Sunday, January 15, 2017 following the VST (no earlier than 12-noon) La Quinta - Bedford 1809 Hwy. 121 Bedford, TX 76021

Inside Tracks: Dues Reminder ..... 1 Argos TDU and TD ..... 1 Next Meeting ..... 1 President's Message ..... 2 Tracking Classes ..... 2 Laila TDU ..... 4 Ripley TD ..... 5 Vegetable Beef Soup ..... 5 Minutes ..... 6 Upcoming Tests ..... 6-7 DFWTC Info ..... 8

# *President's Message*

Once again it's busy season - for both training and testing (with a bit of holiday thrown in).

We held our first-ever combined TDU/VST last November 12-13, and there are 3 new TDU's to show for it. Thanks to Tracy Freeling for being Chair/Secretary, with yours truly as Chief Tracklayer. Judges were Charlene Dunn and Stephanie Crawford.

I've heard we might have at least one new TD as well. I hope our Editor has lots of content from new title holders!

We have some new club members. If you haven't already met them, by all means come to a meeting or test and welcome Carson Albright, Pandora and John Galbraith and George Loucks.

On December 17 Susan Norvell and her husband Bill hosted our annual Christmas Party at their lovely place in Red Oak. As usual, it was an afternoon of good food, good fun and good folks. Thanks!

Marian Beck Edwards and I will have started our Winter Classes on January 8. It appears to be a good group of people and dogs. We have a Clumber, a St. Bernard, a Cairn, a German Shepherd, two Cardigans and two Labs.

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 Darlene Barnard and Linda Baschnagel. Our next club meeting will follow the test.

We're down to the wire in planning our spring combined TD/TDX, to be held the weekend of March 11-12 at Unit 49 of the LBJ National Grasslands. This is the same place we held our March test last year. I will be Test Chair/Secretary for this test. Judges are Charlene Dunn and Stephanie Barnard. If you can help out on this test, by all means let me know. A combined TD/TDX is our most labor intensive test - especially the TDXs. Looking at the alternates list at recent TDXs in Texas, we really need to provide opportunities for TDXs.

Don't forget that dues were due January 1!

I hope everyone has a fun and successful 2017!

Sarah

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## **Tracking Classes**

The Winter Tracking Class instructors are Marian Beck-Edwards and Sarah Helber. The classes are full. See the President's Message above for the details.



Watch the [dfwtc.org](http://dfwtc.org) website for information on upcoming classes.

## Argos TDU - continued from page 1

to be looking for and not quite sure what to do when I saw it. By the end of our Winter class Sarah and Marian had buffed up my line handling and I felt much more confident when Argos was tracking and when I needed to intervene and stop him from smelling the roses.

Just as I was starting to feel cocky again, I started the March course with Charlene and did my first blind track. All of the sudden I'm standing in a field with Argos in front of me and I have no idea what I'm doing all over again. Charlene's yelling at me to read my dog, and I realize I don't know what Argos does on a track because I'm always staring at the flag in front of me. After a class full of trying to watch Argos instead of the track Charlene tells me that I'm going to try for my TDU in November. Not only am I going to need to figure out how to read Argos over the summer, but Argos is going to need to learn hard surface.

After a summer full of practicing blind tracks, hard surfaces and four certification attempts, I finally feel prepared to attempt my first test. I'm about halfway through a class with Jean-Maria and I haven't had the familiar feeling of the rug being pulled out from under me. Test day snuck up on me a lot faster than I expected and before I knew it I was in La Quinta waiting to find out which track I was going to run. Luckily, I got first run and didn't have to wait too long to see how Argos and I would do.

Walking up to the track, I was feeling fairly confident. Argos likes to quarter and check each side of a turn but he moves fast and I was starting to recognize when he was testing the wrong side of a turn and when he was actually making a turn. The first 30 yards were a bit nerve racking. Argos didn't seem to want to start and I wasn't going to leave the safety of the 30 yards until he seemed confident he knew where he was going. After a slow start, he finally decided to work and the rest of the track was a blur. Argos took his first turn beautifully and I had no doubt about which way the track led. We practically skipped through our first hard surface crossing. It was right about the time we hit our halfway point where I was starting to get worried we had overshot our turn. On our right there was a tree almost directly where Argos was trying to turn into and on our left there was a bit of land that could have made a nice 3<sup>rd</sup> leg. Luckily, Argos dragged me over to the trees, despite my concern that it was just scent pooling over by the foliage. Before I knew it Argos was indicating at the halfway marker. The rest of the track was pretty smooth. I retraced our steps a few times out of anxiety, but Argos knew where we were going the entire time. In no time at all I was waving the glove at the end of the track, doing my best not to drop the line.



## Argos TD

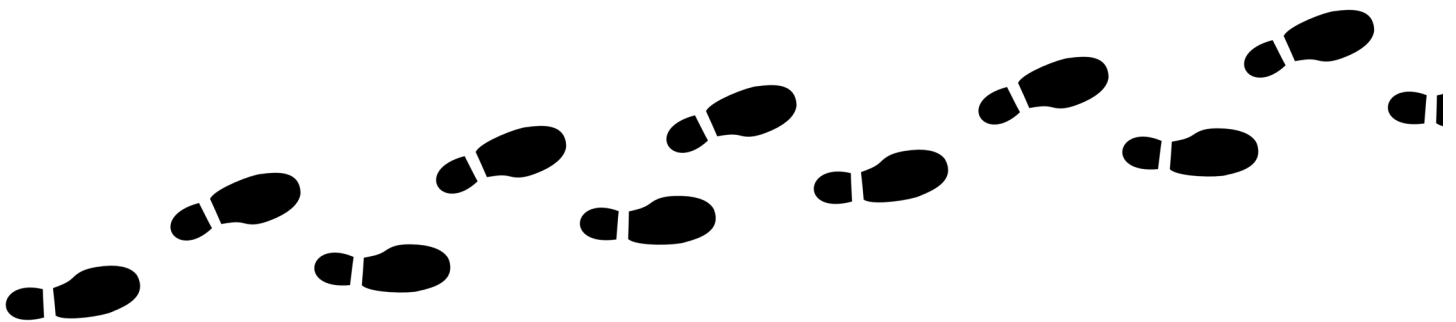
Argos' TD was a lot less nerve-racking than his first TDU. I knew that we no longer had to get certified whenever we wanted to test, and we technically didn't need a TD in order to try our hand at the TDX/VST. Knowing all that, I enjoyed our TD much more than I did our TDU. Waiting to draw tracks always gives me anxiety because the longer I wait for something, the more time it gives me to think about everything that could go wrong. Luckily, I drew the first test again. This was the first track Argos had run since passing his TDU, and I had cut back on most of our weekly activities to give him energy for the test. As we approached the first flag, Argos was pumped and ready to have some activity again. After giving him the go ahead, Argos practically sprinted through our first leg leaving me scrambling behind him to keep up. I didn't have much time to worry over finding a line up or making sure we were going in the right direction as Argos booked it through the entire test. I remember our second leg was a bit of a challenge for him, as he backtracked and quartered more than usual. After the second leg, Argos seemed very sure of himself as he dragged me across the field. After our fifth turn, I was starting to get worried he was just running around randomly in a field. The entire summer I had trained for a TDU, and was used to a middle article and we were approaching a street. I was almost expecting us to cross the street out of habit, but right before we hit the road Argos indicated at the glove. Not seeing the glove myself, it caught me off guard as I was half expecting to find out Argos had just decided he wanted to run around in a field for a bit, but I gladly waved it around to finish our track. After being chewed out for running a track, Argos and I got to enjoy the rest of the trial knowing we had successfully obtained both a TD and a TDU after our first attempt.

**Laila's TDU**  
by Pam Joyce  
November 13, 2016

First off, I want to thank all of my past and present tracking partners. I would never have accomplished passing a TDU without all of your long hours of following me on track. I started with no clue of what we were trying to do and somewhat skeptical of it all and evolved into someone who has attended and participated in a few tests. I am now a true believer, my dog knows where the track is and I don't. I am truly thankful for the past two and a half years of fun.



Back to the test... Laila was anxious to get started but since we had fourth draw, she patiently waited her turn in the car. When we arrived at the start, I was trying not to be nervous so that hopefully she wouldn't notice that there were two judges waiting on us. I had asked for "no gallery" because Laila tends to get distracted and sometimes it takes a while to get undistracted. I watered her and sent her to the start. She sniffed, sat and waited for her treat (which she didn't get). I picked up the bandana and told her find another. She slowly walked forward and then off to the left, sniffing at each foreign object and looking at me as if to say, "Hmm... how bad do you want this?" I waited her out and she passed the 30 yard flag which seemed to take forever. She then led me across the street on the first leg. I was hoping she was correct, and she was. She lifted her head and seemed confused so I re-scented her and she continued on. As we came to the turn, she went to the left but stuck her head in the air so I stopped. She then started trotting in a circle to the left and headed to the right. I have seen her do this so many times which means 99% of the time she is on track. It is her way of going right by going left which is her favorite turn. I let her continue her circle and continue right. As we were walking, I started looking for an article. Lo and behold there was a sock and we were on track. Laila stuck her nose on the sock and then waited for me to come and pick it up. I told her to find another and she continued on. Next was a right turn which she cut a little short. She continued on nonchalantly following the track but stopping to sniff anything that she felt may not belong there. She crossed the street again and she stopped just a few yards past the curb. I think that I was still in the street when I looked right and there was this guy walking down the street and quietly passing behind me. Laila just looked at him and then stood still while making her decision on which way to go. She stepped right first and stuck her head in the air deciding the track did not go that way. She then started forward. We went about 10 steps when we stopped. I wanted her to indicate the track so that I was sure that the track went that way. She started coming back to me so I backed up. She started to the left and across another piece of pavement. I thought to myself that I sure hoped this was the way but she seemed confident. Across the pavement and onto a patch of grass we continued, she picked up the pace about 20 yards from the glove and so I focused in on where she was going. And within 15 seconds, she stopped at the glove, nosed it and looked back at me. I hurried to the glove and held it up for the judges. It was over....finally. Thank you to DFW Trackers and all of those who participated in putting on the tracking contest. We couldn't have done it without you.



## Ripley's TD

by Pandora Galbraith



I've been learning to AKC Track with the DFW Tracking Club since September 2015. My dog had a lot of fear/aggressive behaviors when we started and the teachers helped her become more social, well-behaved and quiet. My bloodhound is very stubborn and the week before we passed, we had entered the DFWTC test for a TDU and Ripley had refused to track at all. She wanted to play with her daddy and stood staring at him. The next week, November 20, was the Basset Hound

Tracking Test and my husband was NOT allowed to attend. I was so worried about her starting well ... or not! She actually wanted to track and pulled me through the fields, not giving me any time to look for landmarks. I had my ear out for the whistle and just kept following her. When we approached the roadside, she just stopped and stood by me. I looked around hopefully for the end article ... and it was right at my feet!



It seemed like a long time, my mouth was so dry, but it was only 7 minutes. I may have been so happy that I had tears in my eyes! I'm very proud of her.



## Vegetable Beef Soup

shared by Laurel Hoevker



- 2 pounds lean ground beef
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 30 ounce jar chunky garden-style spaghetti sauce with peppers and mushrooms
- 1 10.5 ounce can beef broth
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1 10 ounce can Rotel Tomatoes with Chilies
- 1 16 ounce package frozen mixed vegetables\*
- 1 teaspoon salt (optional)
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Cook meat with onions and garlic until crumbly. Add all other ingredients. Cover and simmer until vegetables are tender.\*

\*I use two 16 ounce packages of vegetables and simmer a LONG time, adding more water if necessary.

**Remember the Recipe Rules:** The recipes shared here are original creations or favorite recipes. 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!

## UPCOMING TESTS

### DFWTC

**Jan. 15: VST**  
**Bedford, TX - closed**  
**Charlene Dunn**  
**crdslabs@yahoo.com**

Jan. 29: TD  
El Paso, TX - closes Jan. 19  
Sandra Hill  
seranadehill@aol.com

February 5: TDX  
Placitas, NM - closes Jan. 26  
Lynn Wilson  
lynn@swcp.com

February 12: TDX  
Sullivan, MO - closes February 2  
Pat Thayer  
conobra@gmail.com

February 12: TDX  
Anderson, TX - closes February 2  
Natalie Wiest  
texwiest@gmail.com

February 19: TDX  
El Paso, TX - closes February 9  
Pam Dundes  
pcdundes@earthlink.net

February 26: TDU, TDX, TD, VST  
Fort Worth, TX - closes February 13  
Judy Jackson  
jjblitzt@hotmail.com

February 26: TD  
Placitas, NM - closes February 15  
Ann Newsted  
ann.newsted@gmail.com

February 26: TDX  
Smithville, MO - closes February 16  
Darcy Seeger  
dseeger77@gmail.com

February 26: TD, TDX  
Littleton, CO - closes February 16  
Ms. Tracey Griffith  
traceygriffith2@gmail.com

March 5: TD, TDX  
Littleton, CO - closes February 19  
Carol Makowski  
bristleconeassets@yahoo.com

March 5: TD  
Smithville, MO - closes February 23  
Rosi von Fintel  
rvonfintel@kc.rr.com

*continued on page 7*

# DFWTC Club Meeting Minutes

## For Approval

### Minutes of the December 17, 2016, DFW Tracking Club Meeting

Home of Susan Norvell, 1025 Allen Road, Red Oak, TX 75154

Sarah Helber, President, called the meeting to order at 3:21 p.m.

In attendance were members Carla Coggins, Charlene Dunn (Treasurer), Tracy Freeling (Vice-President), John Galbraith, Pandora Galbraith, Sarah Helber (President), Laurel Hoevker (Secretary), Pam Joyce (Board Member), and Susan Norvell. Our guest was George Loucks who was voted into membership at the meeting.

The minutes of the August 20, 2016, and November 13, 2016, meetings were approved as published on the dfwtrackers Yahoo Group.

#### President's Report

Sarah thanked Susan and Bill Norvell for hosting our Christmas lunch/party and the meeting

Sarah thanked all those who helped with the VST/TDU on November 13, 2016

#### Secretary's Report

None

#### Treasurer's Report

The report was passed around for review. Charlene noted

The plane fare for Judge Stephanie Crawford was included in the previous report

Three checks have not yet cleared the bank

The VST/TDU expenses were \$1040

The VST/TDU entry receipts were \$700

Leaving a deficit of approximately \$300

#### Committee Reports

##### Judges Committee

Sarah updated and distributed the Judges' List to the committee members

Charlene talked with judges at the Nationals to see who might be willing to travel and judge at our November 2017 test

The committee will meet and make a decision

#### Election of New Members

Following the second reading of George Loucks' application for Household Membership, he was voted into Household Membership by unanimous secret ballot

George is the husband of member Carla Coggins

They have Cardigan Welsh Corgis

#### Unfinished Business

##### Winter Tracking Classes 2017

Sarah Helber and Marian Beck-Edwards will be the instructors

Sundays, January 8 through February 26

As of this meeting, there are 2 Beginners and 4 Intermediates enrolled

##### January 15, 2017, VST

Application has been approved by AKC

Insurance has been paid and TCC has given their final approval

La Quinta has been secured

The price has increased substantially and Charlene suggests we look for a different venue going forward

Holiday Inn is close but they won't allow us to bring in food

Charlene Dunn is Chair/Secretary

Charlene needs the Test Secretary Box

Judges are Darlene Barnard and Linda Baschnagel

Tracy Freeling is Chief Tracklayer

Possible Tracklayers

Freda Burks

Roberta Dunn

Pam Joyce

Pat McGowan

Cindy Morrow

# DFWTC Club Meeting Minutes

For Approval ~ continued

Peggy Kirkland - would be her first time to lay track – willing if needed

Laurel Hoevker - would be her first time to lay track – willing if needed

## Committee

Charlene Dunn (Chair/Secretary)  
Tracy Freeling (Chief Tracklayer)  
Nancy **Barkley Barclay** (Hospitality)  
Peggy Kirkland  
Cindy Morrow

Nancy Barclay will do hospitality

Carla Coggins and Pandora Galbraith volunteered to help

Pandora does not want to provide transportation

AKC Tracking Representative, Carol Ruthenburg, and Kathleen Milford, will be on site both Plotting Day and the day of the Test

Kathleen will be completing the last step in obtaining approval to judge VST tests

They have requested transportation on Saturday and Sunday

March 12, 2017, TDX/TD

Sarah Helber will serve as Chair/Secretary

## Committee

Sarah Helber (Chair/Secretary)  
Pam Joyce (Chief Tracklayer)  
Carla Coggins (Hospitality)  
George Loucks (Hospitality)  
Laurel Hoevker

Judges are Charlene Dunn and Stephanie Gonyeau

Location will be LBJ National Grasslands, Unit 49, Decatur, TX

Sarah has submitted the application and is to talk with her Forest Service Contact, Marc Pons, in January, 2017

Sarah will order the Porta Potty

There was a temporary adjournment when activity in the kitchen required attention and the food was put up.

The meeting reconvened at 3:47 p.m.

## New Flags

Charlene described flags used in Denver

Made of PVC with a long nail for securing into ground

Other suggestions – electrical conduit or fiberglass

Flag material secured with rivets or screws

They were carried in a golf bag

DFWTC needs 24 tall (5 or 6 foot) flags for cross tracks

John Galbraith volunteered to make them

## Logo Tee Shirts and other apparel

No update

## New Business

none

The next meeting of the DFWTC will follow the VST on January 15, 2017

La Quinta – Bedford  
1809 Highway 121  
Bedford, TX 76021

There being no other business, motion to adjourn was made by Charlene Dunn

The motion was seconded by John Galbraith and passed

The meeting concluded at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurel Hoevker  
Secretary

## MORE UPCOMING TESTS

### DFWTC

March 12: TD, TDX

Decatur, TX - closes March 2

Ms. Sarah Helber

shelber@att.net

March 12: TDX, TD

Littleton, CO - closes March 1

Lynn Kaemmerer

badblackcorgi@gmail.com

March 12: TD, VST

Sullivan, MO - closes March 2

Sandi Thompson

gatewaytracking@yahoo.com

March 19: TDX, TD

Houston, TX - closes March 9

Ms. Marsha McCaddon

macbuzz2@yahoo.com

March 26: TDX

Littleton, CO - closes March 8

Diane Thomson

dianethomson01@comcast.net

March 26: TD

Littleton, CO - closes March 16

Lynn Kaemmerer

badblackcorgi@gmail.com

March 26: TDU, VST

Tulsa, OK - closes March 16

Jane Wittstock

intcinfo@juno.com

April 2: VST

Rogersville, MO - closes March 23

Mrs. Cathy Hawkins

cathyanhawkins1@gmail.com

April 2: TDU, TDX, TD

Fort Worth, TX - closes March 15

Ms. Judy Jackson

jjblitz@hotmail.com

April 9: VST, TD

Sullivan, MO - closes March 30

Sandi Thompson

gatewaytracking@yahoo.com

April 2: TD, TDX

Sullivan, MO - closes April 6

Carol Stone

schwartzpudel@hughes.net



DFW Tracking Club

C/O Cindi Todd

6861 Greenleaf Dr.

N. Richland Hills, TX 76180

[info@dfwtc.org](mailto:info@dfwtc.org)

E-mail:

[dfwtrackers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:dfwtrackers@yahoogroups.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](mailto:info@dfwtc.org)**