



**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!

**Laila Joyce TDU is now...  
Laila Joyce TDU VST - November 2017**

by Pam Joyce

I can't be prouder of Laila. I started training for both the VST and TDX soon after passing the November 2016 TDU. As soon as we started aging tracks to the required 3 to 5 hours old, I noticed an increased interest on Laila's part in tracking. She tracked more reliably and was easier to follow. On the day of the test, I was lucky in that I brought the dog that I had tracked with all summer. She was ready to take care of business. She may have wandered some on her track but she consistently went back to the track and continued on her way. She found all of the articles and may have caused a few heart attacks on the last article. She did it her way and I wouldn't have it any other way. I would like to thank the judges Jane Jonas and Jean Hilbig, my tracklayer Charlene Dunn, and last but not least, DFW Tracking Club. And, to my crew (you know who you are) thanks for meeting me early in the morning, all over the place providing great times and memories in the hot summer sun. Now for the TDX!!!

Read about

**CT CH WildWest Power Play NA AXJ FX (aka Zubie)**

beginning on page 3

DFW TRACKING CLUB

**Tracks**



**Club Meetings**

**Sunday, January 14  
following the VST  
(no earlier than 12-noon)  
Hurst Fire Station**

**Sunday, March 11  
following the TD/TDX  
(no earlier than 12-noon)  
Unit 49 of the  
LBJ Grasslands  
Decatur, TX 76234**

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## *President's Message*

What a busy fourth quarter - and this is just the start of our busy season.

Thanks to Charlene Dunn as Chair/Secretary and Jeanine Wilson as Chief Tracker, as well as to all those who worked our November TDU/VST Test. And of course thanks to our judges Jean Hilbig and Jane Jonas. We had one VST pass - Pam and Laila. You can read their story elsewhere in this edition of *Tracks*.

The November test also was the first time for us to use the conference room at the Hurst Main Fire Station as our Headquarters, and it worked out well. John Galbraith is a fireman with the Hurst Fire Department and he was able to obtain permission to use the room. Thanks, John!

And speaking of stories, we have a club member with a new CT this quarter. Congratulations to Jean-Maria and Zubie! Their story is also elsewhere in *Tracks*.

And once again, thanks to Charlene and her support team for putting on her Advanced Tracking Seminar in December. It's been a few years since we had a seminar and I hope we don't wait quite so long before holding another one.

We welcomed a new Club member - Dori Page. Many of you know Dori from agility or from our classes.

On December 2 Susan Norvell and her husband Bill hosted our annual Christmas Party at their lovely place in Red Oak.

Looking forward on the calendar, Marian Beck Edwards and I plan to start our Winter Classes on January 7 at Parkhill Park in Grand Prairie.

The winter VST will be held January 13-14 at TCCNE campus and the Texas Health Resources H-E-B hospital. Charlene Dunn is the Test Chair/Secretary, with judges Linda Baschnagel and Mitzi Young. Our next club meeting will follow the test.

And, to close out the quarter, our spring combined TD/TDX will be held the weekend of March 10-11 at Unit 49 of the LBJ National Grasslands. Charlene will be Chair/Secretary, with judges Nan Cochrane and Inge Suchanek. If you can help out on this test, by all means let Charlene know. I can't say often enough that a combined TD/TDX is our most labor intensive test - especially the TDX's. And, as usual, local TDX's are few and far between!

If you haven't paid your dues, don't forget they were due January 1.

I hope everyone has a fun and successful 2018!

Sarah

# CT CH WildWest Power Play NA AXJ FX (aka CT Zubie)

by Jean-Maria Higginbotham

On a cold morning in Sullivan, MO, Zubie and I waited for another VST (variable surface tracking) draw. There were 3 VST dogs entered. We drew track 2 so after a quick walk, we loaded up and caravanned to the location of the 1<sup>st</sup> track. The young terv started quickly but soon made a turn where there wasn't one. The judges were patient but the dog never recovered so the dreaded whistle was heard.

Our turn, the caravan moved to the fair grounds. For a VST test, the only thing you have to start is a single flag with a start article that is either cloth or leather. I see the flag, take a deep breath, park on the side and started our routine. First get out the harness and long line. Next put the fanny pack on, make sure its empty and the water bottles are filled. Put Zubie's harness and tracking collar on him, hook the line to his collar, lift him down, gather the line and walk over to the judges. The judges point to the start flag and I ask the question I am trained to ask every single time I approach a start flag "how should I approach?" Judge points and says "we'll see you at #4".

Zubie is pulling towards the flag, I step on the line, hold his harness, switch the line from his collar to his harness, give him a drink of water, put a little water on his nose, stow the bottle and tell Zubie to "go find". At that point, my job is to watch Zubie, read what he's telling me, pick up the leather square start article, stow it and follow my dog. Zubie quickly determines the track goes towards a flag pole and we're off. I focus on Zubie. He's working quickly; checking left/right occasionally and coming right back to the line. Soon he makes a left turn. The surface changes from grass to blacktop. There's a pavilion with picnic tables to my right and open field ahead.

Zubie makes a right turn towards the pavilion. He starts to enter it, then comes back and moves across the black top towards the grass. I am watching him closely and feel sure he is indicating loss of scent. I give him water, re-scent him with our start article, and again ask him to find. He works the area, I give him lots of line, he moves back towards the pavilion, turns in the same spot as before, works the area and finally goes through the pavilion and stops and slaps something. I ask "what ya got" as I move up the line and Zubie looks at it again. Plastic article! Come on Zubie, we just need metal and cloth. I barely get it picked up before Zubie is driving down the track. He breaks off to the right, then back to the asphalt walk we are following, then back in the grass, back to the walk.

Oh boy, we are in a tough spot. Pavilion behind us, a large bandstand a ways off to the right, a pavilion a little further down on the right and a small shed size building between the grandstand and pavilion. My brain is racing, what direction is the wind blowing, and what will the scent do around these buildings, think and focus. Zubie is working hard; I stop and give him water, wet his nose, and again "find it". This time he goes towards the bandstand and then to the left through a field. I can see the test headquarters and the potty area for the dogs. This can't be right. Focus, what is Zubie doing and what is he telling me?

At this point, I'm going to let one of my judges tell the rest of the track story. She posted this write-up on a Facebook group I didn't even know existed. A friend told me about it, I asked to join the group, found the post and smiled through tears.



"I am compelled to write a more detailed post about the Cocker Spaniel that passed the VST in St Louis today to earn his Champion Tracker. CT CH WildWest Power Play NA AXJ XF and his owner/handler Jean-Maria Higginbotham did one of the most impressive jobs as a team that I have ever seen.

The third article turned out to be a very difficult puzzle. The dog worked it for a very long time. He demonstrated clearly that he knew where the track left the area and had several opportunities to leave and continue down the track - but each time, he chose to

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# A Tribute to Gillian Salling

Over 40 years of breeding, training, showing and judging...





Gillian earned her first TD in 1978 and her last TD in 2017. Gillian started judging in 1996. She was active for 22 years.





A track well laid, Gillian; time to hang up your boots!

## CT Zubie continued from page 3

turn back into the area to work out the puzzle. He clearly knew there was an article (metal) in the area and wasn't going to leave until he found it. He did a beautiful job of bracketing the area and identifying the boundary of the scent cone. He then worked his way methodically back to the article. Several times the wind took him far from the article, but each time he figured it out and used the wind to get him back where he needed to be. When he figured it out - this tired - exhausted little dog turned on the afterburners and charged about 10 yards to the article.

Jean-Maria did an awesome job allowing this little guy the freedom to use his instincts and do what he needed to do, and go where he needed to go - to work out the puzzle. She supported him by giving him water and staying out of his way. Once he got the article, and accepted that he wasn't going to get a treat, he turned back to the track and proved he knew where the track was all along - he was finally willing to leave the area and finish the last leg and a half without any hesitation. There was a lot to learn from this team about good handling and how a dog works a difficult scent problem. After all these years, I continue to get goose bumps over how successful our canine companions can be when we give them the chance to work out these problems without our "help". I wish I had it on video – It would be a great teaching video of the right way to do it."

I am forever in debt to Judge Jean Hilbig for taking the time to write that post. I was so excited when he slapped that metal article that Zubie may have thought he was done. Tracking is not a timed event however the dog must continue working. Zubie was clearly tired but we were so close. I brushed off and checked all 4 of his paws, gave him some more water, wet his nose and again said "find it". After a brief pause, Zubie turned, put his nose down, motored through that pavilion and started across a grass field. In the distance, I see something red on a gravel drive. Oh my gosh, he's going to do it. I'm fighting to hold on and wait for him to work his way to the article. I must remain at least 10' behind him, come on Zubie, just a couple feet to your right... that's it, yes, he slaps the article as I run to pick it up and wave it for the judges. We all yell, there are hugs all around and lots of "good boys" for Zubie.

54 minutes start flag to article #4. That's how long Zubie worked that track. He's exhausted. One of the workers gives us a ride back to my car and Zubie is so tired he can't even put his front paws on the bumper. I lift him into the car, take off his harness and hurry to get his post tracking treat out of the cooler. Every time Zubie tracks, no matter how it goes, he knows there is a 4 ounce plastic container of frozen canned food waiting for him.

Champion Tracker Zubie!



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## Spring 2018 Tracking Classes

Spring Tracking Classes will be held on Saturdays, March 3 through April 21 at Parkhill Park in Grand Prairie. Charlene Dunn and Cindi Todd are the lead instructors.

Registration begins February 1. Class numbers are limited so sign up early.



# DFWTC Meeting Minutes - November 12, 2017

## Approved December 2, 2017

Minutes of the November 12, 2017, DFW Tracking Club Meeting  
City of Hurst Fire Station, 2100 Precinct Line Road, Hurst, Texas, 76054

Sarah Helber, President, called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

In attendance were members Charlene Dunn (Treasurer), Tracy Freeling (Vice-President), John Galbraith, Pandora Galbraith (Secretary), Pam Joyce (Board Member), Peggy Kirkland, Susan Norvell, Shari Price, Cindy Todd and Jeanine Wilson. Guests were Monica Becherer, Roberta Dunn, Bill Norvell, and Dori Page

The minutes of the August 5, 2017 meeting were approved as published on the DFW Trackers Yahoo Group.

### President's Report

- Sarah thanked all those who helped make the TDU/VST Test a success
- Special thanks to John Galbraith and the Hurst Fire Department for use of their conference room, and the e-mail address for the chief was noted for those who wish to thank the chief personally

### Secretary's Report-None

### Treasurer's Report-

- The Income/Expense Report was passed around for review
- Advanced Tracking Seminar has filled up and there are 2 people on the waiting list

### Committee Reports-None

### Applications for New Membership

- Dori Page-First reading, applying for Regular Membership
  - Dori has a Border Collie and a yellow Labrador

### Unfinished Business

- Advanced Tracking Seminar-December 16-17, 2017
  - Charlene has all working slots full
  - She has 2 volunteer worker-Laurel Hovker and Pam Joyce
  - She has 2 people on a waiting list
  - The workbook is still being updated by Charlene
- Christmas Party-December 2, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
  - Susan Norvell's house-1025 Allen Road, Red Oak , Texas 75154
  - White elephant gift exchange
  - Susan will send out more details via e-mail
- January 14, 2018 VST-
  - Judges-Linda Baschnagel and Mitzi Young
  - Test Secretary/Chair-Charlene Dunn
  - Committee
    - Charlene Dunn-Test Secretary/Chair
    - Jeanine Wilson-Chief Tracklayer
    - Nancy Barclay- Hospitality
    - John Galbraith
    - Tracy Freeling
  - Judges have booked their flights
  - Proof of Insurance is needed by Sarah for TCC-NE by December 6, 2017
  - Premium is being completed
  - Headquarters will be Hurst Fire Station Conference Room
  - Jeanine will need tracklayers
  - Tom Hacholski had previously been added as a tracklayer
- March 11, 2018 TD/TDX-
  - Premium list is due January 25, 2018

continued



## DFWTC Meeting Minutes - November 12, 2017

### Approved December 2, 2017 - continued

- o Judges are Nan Cochrane and Inge Suchanek
- o Their airfare has not been booked
- o Committee-
  - Test Secretary/Chair-Charlene Dunn
  - Chief Tracklayer-Jeanine Wilson
  - Laurel Hoevker
  - Tracklayer-Tom Hacholski
  - Tracklayer-Charlene Dunn
  - Peggy Kirkland will do hospitality

#### New Business

- Winter Tracking Classes 2018
  - o Sarah Helber and Marian Beck-Edwards are the instructors
  - o Class will be Sundays-January 7 through February 25
  - o Registration begins December 1,2017
  - o Classes will be held at Parkhill Park in Grand Prairie
- November 11, 2018 TDU/VST
  - o Pam Joyce made a motion to have a TDU/VST test on this date, Charlene Dunn seconded, and the motion passed
- T-shirts for Tracklayers
  - o Monica Becherer has been asked to assist with picture and logo
  - o Shirts would say something like 'I AM STINKY' and 'DFWTC Official Tracklayer'
  - o If the person who runs a track, passes and titles, the tracklayer who laid the track would receive the t-shirt.
  - o Charlene made the motion to post and choose from potential wordings and drawings on the Yahoo group, and tally votes of the poll by December 2, 2017
  - o Pam Joyce seconded, and the motion passed

#### Other Business

- Non-members were asked to step out and Sarah advised the members present of a disciplinary action that the Board had been in the process of addressing according to Article VI of the DFWTC By-Laws. The resolution of the issue will be presented to the Club at a future meeting as appropriate

The motion to adjourn was made by Charlene Dunn, seconded by John Galbraith and passed. The meeting concluded at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Pandora Galbraith

## DFWTC Meeting Minutes - December 2, 2017

### For approval

Minutes of the December 2, 2017 DFW Tracking Club Meeting  
Susan Norvell's HOME, 1025 Allen Road, Red Oak, TX 75154

Sarah Helber, President, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

In attendance were members, Charlene Dunn (Treasurer), Tracy Freeling (Vice-President), John Galbraith, Pandora Galbraith (Secretary), Sarah Helber (President), Laurel Hoevker, Pam Joyce (Board Member), Susan Norvell, Shari Price, and Jackie Tinker.

The minutes of the November 12, 2017 meetings were approved as published on the dfwtrackers Yahoo Group.

#### President's Report

- Sarah updated the Club on George Louck's Disciplinary Hearing-The Board voted to suspend his membership for 6 months and to recommend expulsion
- Sarah is planning to call a special meeting for the Club to vote on this

continued

## UPCOMING TESTS

January 28: TD  
El Paso, TX - closes January 18  
Sandra Hill  
seranadehill@aol.com

February 4: TDX  
Placitas, NM - closes January 25  
Mr. Lynn Wilson  
lynn@swcp.com

February 11: TDX  
Anderson, TX - closes February 1  
Ginny Conway  
thesieve0@mac.com

February 11: TDX  
Sullivan, MO - closes February 1  
Sandi Thompson  
gatewaytracking@yahoo.com

February 18: TDX  
El Paso, TX - closes February 8  
Michele Mauldin  
mauldinm@msn.com

February 25: TD  
Placitas, NM - closes February 14  
Doranna Durgin  
doranna@chargespell.com

February 25: TD, TDX  
Littleton, CO - closes February 15  
Tracey Griffith  
traceygriffith2@gmail

February 25: TDX, TD, TDU  
Fort Worth, TX - closes February 13  
Judy Jackson  
jjblitz@hotmail.com

February 25: TDX  
Smithville, MO - closes February 15  
Ellen Lash  
elash@hughes.net

March 3: TDU, TDX, TD  
Fort Worth, TX - closes February 21  
Judy Jackson  
jjblitz@hotmail.com

March 4: TD, TDX  
Littleton, MO - closes February 14  
Carol Makowski  
bristleconeassets@yahoo.com

March 4: TD  
Smithville, CO - closes February 22  
Debbie McHenry  
mmc5301@aol.com

continued

## DFWTC Meeting Minutes December 2, 2017 - continued

- o Saturday, January 13, 2018 at noon at the Hurst Fire Station conference room
- o Will require a 2/3 vote by secret ballot of the regular members present and voting

### Secretary's Report

- A thank you note from Judge Jane Jonas was read

### Treasurer's Report

- The report was passed around for review
- Charlene noted dues are due

### Report of Committees

- Judges Committee needs a new member and Pam Joyce volunteered,
- Board Members will vote on her at their meeting

### Election of New Members

- Following the second reading of Dori Page's application for Regular Membership, she was voted into Regular Membership by unanimous secret ballot
  - o She has a Border Collie and a yellow Labrador

### Unfinished Business

- Advanced Tracking Seminar-December 16-17, 2017
  - o 6 Working slots are full with 2 on the waiting list
  - o 15 people are expected-6 working and 9 auditing
  - o Book has been updated and is being printed
  - o Pavilion is rented at Webb Community Park-\$160, no electricity
  - o It will be 2 days, and those signed up will get a book
    - o Working slots \$120/unlimited auditing \$60
  - o Pam and Laurel are volunteers
  - o No menu has been decided on yet
- T-shirts-
  - o Slogan has been chosen-"I may be stinky, but I lay a sweet track"
  - o 2 pictures have tied in the on-line voting so there will be a run-off
- January Classes-
  - o Start January 7th
  - o Sarah Helber and Marian Beck-Edwards are instructors
  - o 2 applications have been received so far
  - o Classes are at Parkhill Park in Grand Prairie
- January 13-14, 2018 VST
  - o Judges -Linda Baschnagel and Mitzi Young
  - o Test Secretary/Chair-Charlene Dunn
  - o Committee-
    - Charlene Dunn-Test Secretary/Chair
    - Jeanine Wilson-Chief Tracklayer
    - Nancy Barclay-Hospitality
    - John Galbraith
    - Tracy Freeling
  - o Judges flights have been booked
  - o Proof of Insurance is needed by Sarah for TCC-NE by December 6, 2017
  - o Headquarters will be at Hurst Fire Department Conference Room
  - o Jeanine will need tracklayers
  - o Tom Hacholski has previously been added as track layer
  - o Some areas of TCC-NE have large amounts of 'khaki weed' that produces stickers

continued

## DFWTC Meeting Minutes

### December 2, 2017 - continued

- o College has been contacted and have agreed to treat the areas in the spring
- o A workday was held December 2nd to clear and area by the welcome center
- o We will need more work done at the college before testing
- March TDX/TD-March 10-11, 2018
  - o Premium list is due to AKC January 25, 2018
  - o Judges are Nan Cochrane and Inge Suchanek
  - o Their airfare has not been booked
  - o Committee
    - Charlene Dunn-Test Secretary/Chair
    - Jeanine Wilson-Chief Tracklayer
    - Hospitality-Peggy Kirkland
    - Laurel Hoevker
    - Sarah Helber added
  - o Tracklayers- Charlene Dunn and Tom Hacholski
  - o Sarah is to send document to Marc Pons- we are on the forest service calendar
- November 11-12, 2018 TDU/VST
  - o A motion was made by Laurel Hoevker to have the Judges Committee hire judges for the November test, seconded by Charlene and the motion passed.

#### New Business

- Succession Planning- Discussion
  - o Need for new members of Judges Committee has been noted
  - o Having an assistant Chair/Person would be a good idea
  - o A list of all the small needs in the test would be helpful to delegate duties
  - o Help with the website and yahoo group would be accepted
- Seminar-
  - o Charlene suggested we invite Jean Hilbig to give a tracking/nose work seminar
  - o The seminar would be in December 2018- 2 days
  - o A motion was made for Charlene to put together a list of potential seminar topics, assisted by Tracy Freeling, and for members to vote on them at the January meeting. The motion was made by Tracy Freeling , seconded by Pam, and the motion passed

The motion to adjourn was made by Pam Joyce, seconded by Charlene Dunn , and passed. The meeting concluded at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pandora Galbraith, Secretary

### MORE UPCOMING TESTS

March 11: TD, TDX  
Littleton, CO - closes Feb 28  
Lynn Kaemmerer  
badblackcorgi@gmail.com

**March 11: TD, TDX  
Decatur, TX - closes March 1  
Ms. Charlene Dunn  
crdslabs@yahoo.com**

March 11: TD, VST  
Sullivan, MO - closes March 1  
Patricia Thayer  
conobtra@gmail.com

March 18: TD, TDX  
Houston, TX - closes March 8  
Marsha McCaddon  
macbuzz2@yahoo.com

March 25: VST, TDU  
Tulsa, OK - closes March 14  
Jane Wittstock  
intcinfo@juno.com

March 25: TD, TDX  
Littleton, CO - closes March 15  
Diane Thomson  
dianethomson01@comcast.net

March 31: VST  
Sullivan, MO - closes March 21  
Karen Rosso  
karenrosso84@gmail.com

March 31: TD  
Sullivan, MO - closes March 21  
Patricia Thayer  
conobtra@gmail.com

April 1: TD  
Littleton, MO - closes March 21  
Diane Thomson  
dianethomson01@comcast.net

April 1: VST  
Rogersville, MO - closes March 22  
Ms. Cathy Hawkins  
cathyannhawkins1@gmail.com

April 8: TDX, TD  
Sullivan, MO - closes March 30  
Cathy Greenfield  
trackingtervs@gmail.com



...never absent from your heart.

Marian Beck-Edwards' ..... **ELLIE**

Tracy Freeling's ..... **HARLEY**

DC Dynadaux Gimme Eight Seconds MS TD



DFW Tracking Club  
C/O Cindi Todd  
6861 Greenleaf Dr.  
N. Richland Hills, TX 76182  
info@dfwtc.org

E-mail:  
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)