



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!

Ozzy TDU TD

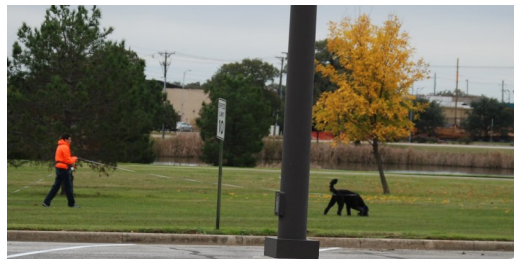
by Shari Price

DFW Tracking Club, November 11, 2018 at TCCNE (TDU)

Basset Hound Club of Greater Fort Worth, November 18, 2018 at the Resource Center (TD)

Ozzy started tracking as a puppy - around the house, across the yard, on walks - he had to have his nose on the ground. It didn't matter that he could see where you were, he wanted to follow the path you took to get there. As a puppy, we started in obedience, took a few rally classes and enjoyed the camaraderie of people with their dogs. We got involved in nose work and he excelled. But we wanted more action and something preferably outdoors. Someone finally told me about the DFW Tracking Club and we started our first class in March 2017.

Skip forward 20 months, several failed attempts at TDUs and TDs, and many months spending weekend mornings tracking, and Ozzy turned it on. Or maybe his handler finally realized he knew what he was doing and to just let him do it. The morning of his successful TDU was cool; we drew the first track. The first leg was shaky, a bit of surface variation, trees, and so many choices. But once he



found the first turn, I just hung on. He crossed the street, took a 90 degree right and found the intermediate article, then proceeded to the next two turns, crossed the double street and median and landed on the glove. Ozzy was one happy dog! He loved the crowd cheering at his success.

continued on page 3



DFW TRACKING CLUB

Tracks



Club Meetings

Sunday, January 13
following the VST
(no earlier than 12-noon)
Hurst Fire Station

Sunday, March 10
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

I hope everyone had a swimmingly successful fourth quarter of 2018, and now we're off on another year.

Many thanks to all who worked our November TDU/VST test, including Charlene Dunn as Chair/Secretary, Jeanine Wilson as Chief Tracklayer, and our judges Ray Desmarais and Stephanie Crawford. Congratulations to club member Shari Price who passed the TDU with teammate Ozzy! I heard they had another successful day shortly thereafter. You can read their story elsewhere in *Tracks*.

If you didn't attend, you missed a good seminar the weekend of December 1-2, given by Jean Hilbig from Colorado (if the name sounds familiar, she has judged several of our tests). Elsewhere in *Tracks* are some of my notes from the seminar.

Charlene hosted the Christmas Party this year and, as always, the food was really good.

By the time you read this, Marian Beck-Edwards and I will have started our Winter Classes on January 6 at Parkhill Park in Grand Prairie. It looks like a good group of people and dogs.

The winter VST will be held January 12-13 at TCCNE campus and the Texas Health Resources H-E-B hospital. Charlene Dunn is the Test Chair/Secretary, Jeanine Wilson is the Chief Tracklayer and judges are Jean Hilbig and Allison Platt. Our next club meeting will follow the test.

By the time you read this you will know that the members voted to hold an AKC Scent Work trial this summer, to be chaired by Charlene. I hope everyone will help her out in this endeavor. Good luck to all who can enter as well!

Finally, our spring combined TD/TDX will be held the weekend of March 9-10 at Unit 49 of the LBJ National Grasslands. Charlene will be Chair/Secretary, with judges Sharon Jolly and Becky Johnson. If you can help out on this test, by all means let Charlene know. I say over and over that a combined TD/TDX is our most labor-intensive test - especially the TDX's. It's hard to find local TDX opportunities, so I feel that it's very important that we provide one.

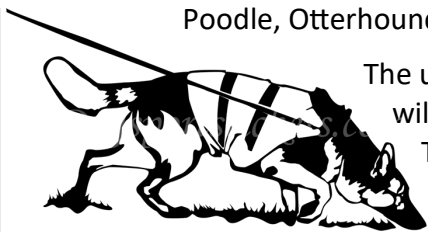
If you haven't paid your dues, don't forget they were due January 1.

Happy New Year!

Sarah

Tracking Classes

The winter tracking classes, taught by Sarah Helber and Marian Beck-Edwards, began on Sunday, January 6. A Malinois and Rottweiler are in the beginning class. The intermediate teams include a Malinois, Miniature Poodle, Otterhound and a Pointer/Lab Mix.



The upcoming Spring Classes will be taught by Charlene Dunn and Pam Joyce. They will run March 2 to April 27 with no class on March 9, the weekend of the DFWTC TD/TDX test at Unit 49 of the LBJ Grasslands in Decatur. Watch the dfwtc.org website for registration information.

Ozzy TDU TD continued from page 1

One week later, on a colder Sunday, we waited through six TDUs before heading out to the field for the TD test. We were in an area where we had never practiced and the open field was daunting. Again a bit of a shaky start, then he found his groove. Ozzy barely veered from the actual track, until the end. I knew we had to be getting close to the glove, but he decided to critter, then he thought it would be fun to fake a right turn, then he meandered over to the glove and looked down at it like “yea, this is it, what’s the big deal?” Okay Dude, it was a big deal!

These titles bear the hand print of many people. We could not have earned them without the continuing support of our fellow trackers and teachers. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to our learning and consequent success. We now have our sights (or noses) set on the VST and TDX.

Four years ago I had no idea that the 18 pound black ball of fur I brought home from Oklahoma would bring me such joy and laughter, would introduce me to new sports, and allow me to meet a whole new group of wonderful, like-minded dog people.

Something I have learned from my dog: it doesn’t matter if I know where I am going, it matters the path that I take to get there.

Be On the Lookout - for Test Sites

by Sarah Helber

Each time we hold a test I can't help but look at our test sites and think how important these sites are to our club. It's a wonderful thing that places exist that we can use for our tests either for free or for nominal costs. Then I think of what these sites looked like when we first started using them, or think of past sites we've used and had to move on, and realize we need to always be on the lookout for potential new test sites - for all of our tests.

So what are the requirements? A site for a TD test sounds easy. We need land, preferably fairly flat with low cover. I've heard an estimate of 5 acres per track, but we also need "overhead" land - space between tracks, ways to get to and from the tracks and room for a headquarters area, with parking.

Of course we usually have combined tests - TD/TDX tests. This ability to exchange TD and TDX tracks gives us more flexibility in the number of tracks offered. However, the TDX test adds quite a bit to the site requirements. We need obstacles - such as woods, ditches and roads. We also need a relatively large area for cross-tracks (large enough that the track really could go either way or straight), and a way to get the cross-tracklayers to and from their cross-tracks. I've heard an estimate of 25 acres per track, but TDX is even more dependent than TD on the layout of the land.

A TDU site is also not quite as easy as a TD. We need non-vegetative surfaces, but not concentrated in huge parking lots and preferably not through canyons of buildings. We also prefer fairly even, lawn-like grass. Finding a site without stickers would be really desirable.

A VST site adds buildings to the TDU requirements. So many campuses are designed for people (darn!) and have a cluster of buildings surrounded by large parking lots. While the large parking lots are good for VST, a single group of buildings close together makes it difficult to get the proper separation between individual tracks. And, of course, all of the VST tracks need their own building challenge(s).

For all of the tests we need a headquarters site to provide a place to get out of the weather, ideally with electricity to keep our food warm as well as. The headquarters doesn't need to be on the test site but it does need to be nearby. If we have to use them, we do have a generator and a tent - as long as we have a place to put them. We obviously need access for our AKC-scheduled weekend(s), and would really like access for individuals to practice there at other times.

If you happen to know of some place that might work, and especially if you or a friend has a connection to that place, please mention it to me or one of the Board members. We might not be able to investigate it immediately, because the effort required to check it out is not insignificant, but it certainly would be nice to have some known alternatives should we need one in the future.

AKC Tracking & the Influences of Scent Work Seminar

by Sarah Helber

I attended the DFWTC-sponsored seminar *AKC Tracking & the Influences of Scent Work* given in December by Jean Hilbig. Jean is an AKC judge of both Tracking and Scent Work. Many of you will recognize her, as she has judged several tests for DFWTC. Her background is in engineering in the nuclear industry, and she has an engineering approach to problems. Her 25 years in tracking, 15 of them as a judge, have given her many opportunities to observe dogs at work.

I'm sure that each of us that attended came away with fresh ideas and inspiration on ways to tackle our particular tracking issues. Jean covered a lot in two days, and gave the working teams good feedback and ideas to try.

While there were many more issues addressed, I particularly liked her AKC Tracking Training Principles. Please note that any errors in their summarization are those of the author!

Principle #1 - The Game

Jean made a distinction between *tracking* (little "t") and *Tracking* (capital "T"). The activity of *tracking* is what dogs do from the day they are born - follow scent. The activity of *Tracking* is one in which a human is added to the equation. While *tracking* is largely an innate ability honed by experience, *Tracking* adds factors such as pack drive (yes, most dogs do care what their handler does), interruptions (to deal with articles) and the requirement to deal with both human and ground scent.

Principle #2 - Trust Your Dog????

Dogs don't lie - dogs do what they've been taught to do. Unfortunately, that's not always what was intended for them to learn. Trusting your dog is having the confidence that comes from knowing that your dog is up to the task. It is a result of thoughtful teaching as well as an understanding of the role of the handler versus that of the dog.

Principle #3 - Roles and Responsibilities of Team Members

A clear understanding of the roles of handlers and dogs is important for the successful tracking team. The handler is responsible for teaching the dog the rules to the Game and for providing opportunities to enhance the skills. The trained dog is responsible for knowing where the track is, or for finding it, as well as for finding articles and communicating their location to the handler. Problems frequently occur when a handler overrides the dog's decisions in training, but then cannot do so at a test when they don't know where the track goes.

Principle #4 - NO GUIDING

Jean feels that guiding during training is a major cause for dogs failing tracking tests, as well as being confusing and demotivating for the dog. Guiding during training causes dogs to look for cues or to wait for permission before proceeding. It can also cause dogs to think that finding articles is the handler's responsibility. Guiding during training is clearly a confusion of the respective roles of the handler and the dog. Jean made the statement that judges rarely fail a handler for guiding because they don't have to. The handler is almost certain to fail himself.

Principle #5 - Teach vs Train

Jean makes a distinction between the teaching phase and the training phase. In the teaching phase, the dog is taught the Game - follow the path of the tracklayer, find articles, and communicate article location to the handler. The handler teaches this by means of starter tracks, the article game, and establishing routines that make it clear how the handler will behave and how the dog will behave - every time. Routines reinforce the Roles and Responsibilities of both the dog and the handler, and they don't change in a test. The routines we discussed were the Start Routine, Corner Routine, Article Routine and End Routine (Celebrate!).

After the dog learns the tasks in the teaching phase, the training phase provides the dog with opportunities to experience and learn from different conditions. It reinforces behaviors that have been taught as well as responsibilities, and gives the team a chance to practice the routines. In the training phase Jean believes there should be NO GUIDING. The training phase consists of short focused tracks. If a dog in this phase has trouble, the handler should have patience and let them work it out. If they can't work it out, the handler should stop and either quit and try that situation at a later time or go to another point in the track to continue and then later find a way to better train or clarify the problem situation.

While we spent most of the seminar on AKC tracking, Jean brought Scent Work into it many times. She believes that doing Scent Work improves article indication, teaches people to read their dog and builds confidence in the dog, which makes it much easier for handlers to trust their dog.

Upcoming Tests

January 20: TD, TDX
Smithville, MO - closes Jan 10
Chris S Kimerer
tanbarkgsd@yahoo.com

Jan 27: TD
El Paso, TX - closes Jan 17
Sandra Hill
seranadehill@aol.com

February 3: TDX
Placitas, NM - closes Jan 23
Mr Lynn Wilson
lynn@swcp.com

February 10: TDX
Anderson, TX - closes Jan 31
Anne Smith
anne@godoggin.com

February 17: TDX
El Paso, TX - closes Feb 7
Michele Mauldin
mauldinm@msn.com

February 24: TD
Placitas, NM - closes Feb 14
Doranna Durgin
doranna@chargespell.com

February 24: TD, TDU, TDX
Forth Worth, TX - closes Feb 11
Judy Jackson
jjblitzt@hotmail.com

February 24: TD, TDX
Loveland, CO - closes Feb 14
Tracey Griffith
traceygriffith2@gmail.com

February 24: TDX
Smithville, MO - closes Feb 14
Ellen Lash
elash@hughes.net

March 3: TDU, TDX
Forth Worth, TX - closes Feb 21
Judy Jackson
jjblitzt@hotmail.com

March 3: TD
Smithville, MO - closes Feb 21
Debbie McHenry
mmc5301@aol.com

March 10: TDX
Sullivan, MO - closes Feb 28
Sandi Thompson
gatewaytracking@yahoo.com

DFWTC Meeting Minutes November 11, 2018 - approved Dec. 15, 2018

Minutes of the November 11, 2018 DFW Tracking Club Meeting
City of Hurst Fire Station, 2100 Precinct Line Road, Hurst, TX, 76054

Sarah Helber, President , called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

In attendance were members Charlene Dunn (Treasurer), Pandora Galbraith (Secretary), Sarah Helber (President), Laurel Hoevker, Pam Joyce, Pat McGowan (Vice-President), Dori Page, Shari Price, Cindi Todd; and guest Ray Desmarais.

The minutes of the August 11th meeting were approved as published on the dfwtrackers Yahoo Group and in *Tracks*.

President's Report-none

Secretary's Report-none

Treasurer's Report-

- ◇ The report was passed around for review
- ◇ Judges Jean and Allyson still will require ticket money for flights
- ◇ Teller deposit was \$10 off but was later corrected in November

Committees Reports-none

Election of New Members-none pending

Unfinished Business-

- ◇ November 10-11, 2018 TDU/VST- food expenses still need to be covered
- ◇ January 12-13, 2019 VST/TDU
 - Charlene Dunn-Test Secretary/Chair
 - Judges-Jean Hilbig and Allison Platt
 - Chief Tracklayer-Jeanine Wilson
 - Committee members
 - Sarah Helber
 - Jean-Maria Higginbotham- and track layer
 - Dori Page-volunteered for hospitality on Sunday only
 - Sarah needs to send insurance by December 9th/ TCCNE has approved pending insurance
 - Puncture vine still is on-site
 - Planning for 4VST/4 TDU
- ◇ March 9-10, 2019 TD/TDX
 - Charlene Dunn –Test Secretary/Chair
 - Judges-Becky Johnson and Sharon Jolly
 - Chief Tracklayer-Jeanine Wilson
 - Committee Member-Sarah Helber

continued

DFWTC Meeting Minutes November 11, 2018 - continued

- Charlene will need help taking supplies out to LBJ Grasslands
 - Still need hospitality
 - Sarah will file the Operations Plan with the USFS. We are already on their calendar.
 - Test was changed to 5TDX/2TD w/substitutions as needed
- ◇ Jean Hilbig Seminar-December 1-2, 2018
- Held at Hurst Fire Station Meeting Room-capacity 60
 - TCCNE has approved campus use
 - November 12 –deadline to let Jean know numbers of working and auditors
 - November 26-deadline for participant questionnaires completion
 - All 10 working slots have been filled, and 8 auditors have signed up
 - \$120 working slots and \$60 auditors
 - Auditors and working attendees will both help Jean
 - Hospitality- Pam will make Chicken Chili Saturday and Charlene will make dump soup Sunday, Pandora will bring cornbread.
- ◇ Fall classes
- Almost finished
 - Gift card was given to a beginner who's dog was lost
- ◇ T-shirts-
- Stinky T-shirts are still in the future, but no good sales have come up yet
- ◇ AKC Scent Work Trials discussion was tabled until the December Meeting

New Business-

- ◇ Winter classes-opens December 6th
- At Parkhill Park
 - Has been mowed
 - 4 Beginner and 4 Intermediate
 - Sundays 1/6-2/24
- ◇ Next Regular Meeting- to follow Christmas Party at Charlene's house on 12/15/2018
- 1:00 p.m.
 - White Elephant- \$25 limit
 - Bring a side and club will pay for Honey baked Ham
 - Address- 8425 Whistling Duck, Fort Worth, TX, 76118

The motion to adjourn was made by Charlene Dunn and seconded by Pat McGowan, and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Pandora Galbraith, Secretary

MORE UPCOMING TESTS

March 10: TD, TDX
Littleton, CO - closes Feb 27
Lynn Kaemmerer
badblackcorgi@gmail.com

DFWTC
March 10: TD, TDX
Decatur, TX -
closes Feb 28
Charlene Dunn
crdslabs@yahoo.com

March 17: TD, TDX
Houston, TX - closes March 7
Marsha McCaddon
events@hotdogclub.org

March 24: TDU, VST
Tulsa, OK - closes March 14
Jane Wittstock
intcinfo@juno.com

March 31: VST
Rogersville, MO - closes
March 21
Cathy Hawkins
cathyannhawkins1@gmail.com

March 31: TD
Littleton, CO - closes Mar 21
Diane Thomson
dianethomson01@comcast.net

April 7: TD, VST
Sullivan, MO - closes Mar 28
Sandi Thompson
gatewaytracking@yahoo.com

April 21: VST
Golden, CO - closes April 11
Carole-Joy Evert
cjkatydid71@gmail.com

April 28: VST
Golden, CO - closes April 3
Jill Grant
billysgirlblue@hotmail.com

May 5: TD, TDX
Catoosa, OK - closes April 25
Jane Wittstock
intcinfo@juno.com

May 19: VST
Golden, CO - closes May 9
Sister Mary Ellen Roach
msjseton@gmail.com

DFWTC Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2018 - for approval

Minutes of the December 15, 2018 DFW Tracking Club Meeting
Charlene Dunn's Home, 8425 Whistling Duck, Fort Worth, TX, 76118

Sarah Helber, President, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

In attendance were members Carson Albright, Marian Beck-Edwards, Charlene Dunn (Treasurer), John Galbraith, Pandora Galbraith (Secretary), Sarah Helber (President), Jean-Maria Higginbotham (Board Member), Laurel Hoevker, Pam Joyce, Dori Page, Shari Price, and Benita Zapata. Guests were Jenna Albright and Tom Hacholski.

The minutes of the November 11th meeting were approved as published on the dfwtrackers Yahoo Group.

President's Report- Sarah welcomed Tom Hacholski as a new Honorary Member

Secretary's Report- none

Treasurer's Report-

- ◇ The report was passed around for review
- ◇ It was noted dues were due

Committee's Report-

- ◇ Judges Committee has decided to hire Carol Clark and Linda Baschnagel as Judges for the November 2019 VST/TDU.

Election of New Members- none pending

Unfinished Business

- ◇ Winter Classes- have 2 beginners and 3 intermediates signed up now, and will meet Sundays 1/6-2/24
- ◇ January 12-13, 2019 VST/TDU
 - Charlene Dunn- Test Secretary/Chair
 - Judges- Jean Hilbig and Allison Platt
 - Chief Tracklayer- Jeanine Wilson
 - Committee- Charlene Dunn, Sarah Helber, Jean-Maria Higginbotham, Dori Page, Jeanine Wilson
 - Track Layers- Jean-Maria Higginbotham and Roberta
 - Hospitality- Dori Page
 - We have TCCNE approval
 - Allison and Jean are arriving at same time at different airports on Friday, January 11th at 11:30 a.m.- John Galbraith volunteered to pick up one Judge at Love Field
 - Premium is out, but no entries yet
- ◇ March 9-10, 2019 TD/TDX- Plan is 5X/2TD
 - Charlene Dunn- Test Secretary/ Chair
 - Judges- Sharon Jolly and Becky Johnson
 - Chief Tracklayer- Jeanine Wilson
 - Committee- Charlene Dunn, Jeanine Wilson, Sarah Helber
 - Jean-Maria and Pam Joyce volunteered as Committee Members
 - Hospitality- John Galbraith volunteered
 - Sarah has contacted Mark, who says they are planning to burn the site in January, and he will be sent the application Monday

continued

DFWTC Meeting Minutes - December 15, 2018 for approval - continued

- Insurance has been paid
- Premium List due to AKC on January 24th, 2019

◇ AKC Scent Work Trials-

- Charlene passed around a detailed budget for proposed start up and first trial and there was discussion
- Committee consisting of Shari Price, Pam Joyce, Cindi Todd, Carson Albright, Benita Zapata, and Charlene Dunn will get more information about trials

New Business

◇ November 9-10th, 2019 TDU/VST

- Pam Joyce made a motion to have the November Test with Judges Linda Baschnagel and Carol Clark, Carson seconded and the motion passed.
- Application is due June 27th, 2019

◇ Spring Classes

- Charlene Dunn and Pam Joyce will teach
- Classes will run from March 2 to April 27- classes will be canceled on X-test day March 9

Next Regular Meeting will follow January 13th test at City of Hurst Fire Station, 2100 Precinct Line Road, Hurst, TX, 76054

The motion to adjourn was made by Charlene Dunn and seconded by Laurel Hoevker, and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Pandora Galbraith, Secretary



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 fulfill the needs of 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