



**Have you paid your DFWTC dues?**

DFWTC Membership lapses if dues are not paid by January 31. Send your dues to Charlene Dunn, Treasurer, now!



**Dove's Passing VST Track**

by Tom Hacholski

On the morning of November 8, 2020, it was cool and a little overcast. The tracking gods and planets were in alignment, along with the luck of the draw for Dove's run on the second VST track at Texas Health Methodist HEB Hospital in Bedford, TX.

The start flag was on the north side of Tibbets Road placed in the grass about five feet from the edge/curb of the street. From the way I was told to approach the flag and because of a tree line to the right, I knew that the first leg would parallel Tibbets. I did my usual routine and brought Dove about five feet in front of the flag, put on his harness and unsnapped his collar. I brought him up to the flag and told him to "find it". He didn't sniff the sock at length like he generally does at tests where someone else's scent is on the article but sort of gave it a passing whiff and stepped off to the left and stood. Oh boy, I thought, he's going to mess around but after a bit he took off paralleling the street and once even stepping off the curb and walking on the asphalt. He got back on the grass and moved in to hug the now nearby bushes on the right and then broke off indicating loss of scent. He did a slight right and then considered continuing forward. The track could have done so but later I learned that the start flag for track #3 was in front of the Mental Health building approximately 80 yards away.



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DFW TRACKING CLUB



**Next Club Meeting**

**Sunday, January 17  
following the TDU/VST  
(no earlier than 12-noon)**

**West Park  
600 Westpark Way  
(west side)  
Euless, TX 76040**

**Bring a chair and  
your lunch!**

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# *President's Message*

2020 was a year unlike any other and despite the Covid-19 pandemic, DFWTC was able to host all of its yearly tracking events and then some.

The January, 2020, TDU/VST test went well and just at the realization that the pandemic was a reality, in the first weekend of March, the Club held its TD/TDX test at the LBJ Grasslands utilizing sections 49 and 71. The AKC then issued it's Covid guidelines for hosting various canine companion and performance events.

The next accomplishment for the Club was twofold. On June 6<sup>th</sup> the Club held a Sniff-N-Go Match to familiarize our working members of the positions, tasks and procedures required for the upcoming Scent Work Trials held on June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The training sessions paid off because the event, following Covid-19 safety protocols, was a great success. Because of the positive response to this event, the Club voted to go forward with Scent Work Trials in the future. This decision required that the Club's Mission Statement be revised from only encouraging competition of canine companion animals for **Tracking** to include **Scent Related Activities**. What followed were the necessary revisions to the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules. The Board of Director's recommendations were presented to the membership, voted on and passed at the November 8, 2020 meeting following its last TDU/VST test of the year. I personally wish to extend my gratitude to all those who helped make our classes, tests, trials and operation of the club run smoothly this past year.

Our insurance provider for the last fifteen years required special mandates in order for coverage to be renewed. They and many other canine related coverage insurance companies have been experiencing losses due to increasing numbers of dog bite claims. This may have been a blessing in disguise in that we are now insured for our 2021 events with an increased coverage policy at a minimal increase in cost.

The only downside to this abnormal year was that the Club, in good conscience with everyone's health and safety in mind, voted not to host a Christmas party. So instead, here's wishing everyone during this holiday season a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Tom Hacholski, President

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## **Temper's TD** by Jean-Maria Higginbotham

On a cool late October morning in Sullivan, MO, 5 dogs arrived for a TD test. Two goldens, two Australian shepherds, and a Tempersaurus Rex waited for the draw at the fairgrounds. We learned the club's storage unit had been vandalized and they had arrived on plotting day to no gloves, no bandanas, paperwork strewn about and all but one award destroyed or gone. Thankfully the flags were still there so the club quickly purchased replacements while the judges got started plotting. The goldens drew 1 and 3, I drew 5 for Temper and the Aussies drew 2 and 4. The judges warned the handlers that some of the tracks might have a few gopher holes so please be careful and then it was time to caravan to the first track in West Sullivan.

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## Temper's TD continued from page 2

The first golden was soon headed down their track at a quick pace. The judges ran to keep the team in sight and soon the dog stopped, the handler raised the glove in the air and we all cheered. Well, except Temper who complained she wanted her turn. We moved to the back of the property, waited for track 2 to be ready and the first Aussie began working down their track. In just a few minutes another glove in the air and another cheer from the gallery. Two for two and we moved closer to the freeway to see the end of track 3. Again the team had to wait for the track to be ready and not long after they started we saw the second golden moving confidently down his last leg and another glove in the air and another cheer from the gallery. Again Temper complained that she wanted her turn NOW.

The caravan moved to a pair of fields in Sullivan by the water tower. After arriving, we again waited for the next track to be ready. At last the second Aussie started, literally pounced on the first turn, continued down the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg out of sight past the tree line. We wondered for a few minutes and then we heard the cheer and joined in the celebration. 4 dogs, 4 new TDs! Could Temper make it a perfect test?

I got Temper dressed and the judges informed us we needed to wait for the track to be ready. At last it was ready and we made our way past the gallery and into the field on the other side of the water tower. Temper was already trying to find her track so I quickly gave her some water, switched the line to her harness and told her to find it. She was off to the races! Down the first leg, quick work of a turn, then another turn and boom, I was face down in the field. Quickly sucked in some air, tried to figure out if I was still in one piece, and looked at Temper who was circling a bit working the scent unconcerned that her handler was on the ground. Thankful I did NOT check my dog when I stepped in the gopher hole, I jumped up as fast as I could, brushed a bit of blood off my right hand and wrist and quickly followed as Temper made the turn and was moving even faster. One last turn and I could see the glove ahead of Temper. She stopped, I quickly moved up the line and waved the glove for the fifth big cheer of the morning. Six minutes from start flag to glove. Five dogs, five shiny new TD titles.

On the way to her track, Temper was all business, no time to greet anyone, "get out of the way so I can do my track". After she found her glove, she made sure she greeted every single person and confirmed they all saw what a good girl she was and told her so. After pictures and glove signing, we made the long drive home from MO. It rained most of the way home but it's never a bad drive when you come home with the glove and CH Lakota's Temper TANtrum at Adobe TD.

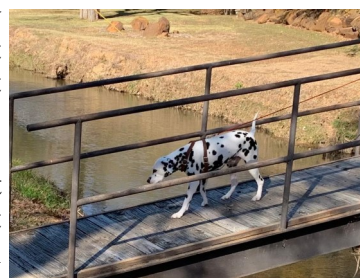


## Dove's Passing VST Track continued from page 1

Dove then turned back to the right and hugged the wrought iron fence on the left. On the right was a tree line. After about 10 yards he centered himself down the lane and came upon a slight rise in the terrain and quickly swung around to the left. Because the turn was so definitive I didn't have to ponder if the track could have continued straight behind a wood fence and on to the northeast side area of the creek. Dove continued up the bias of the slope and came to the first intermediate article. It was right by an opening between a brick wall and the southeast end of what I'll call the hospital's mechanical building. Two workers with trash barrels on dollies were headed to this opening. Scared me to see them there but I held up the article, patted Dove on the head saying "Good boy, find some more". He went on a sidewalk between buildings and then down into a big wide loading dock area with a driveway to the right. On the other side of the driveway was another building and loading dock. The driveway led on the left to a wide concrete expanse and then turned left through two buildings. This obviously was the moment of truth area. The track could have gone to the left and up the driveway alongside the Emergency entrance area but thinking (and I shouldn't) that the hospital would want that path clear at all times I felt going right between the two buildings and under the high canopy was the most likely scenario. Fortunately, I didn't have to consider any options because Dove went to a large post on the corner of the opposite building sniffed it and swung to the center of and down the drive.

Dove sped down the drive and under the high canopy between the two buildings and came up to a dead end chain link construction fence and had to turn to the right. He hugged the fence for a while and then centered himself in the middle of the drive. Both he and I saw the second intermediate article ahead. He pulled me towards the article and though I couldn't see it around the now wooden fence on the left, I could hear a car coming. Just at the time Dove stopped to sit at the article the car came and went wide around him. Again he sat, I patted him on the head and said "Find some more".

Ahead lay the cross driveway end, a grass strip and a wooden bridge over a fairly wide creek. Because of the placement of the article a possible turn had to be at least 30 yards ahead. This indicated to me that if there was a forthcoming turn it would have to be after crossing the bridge. Dove does not like to cross over water, let alone on a wooden bridge. He approached the bridge and went to the right side and down a slight slope to the water. I guess in his mind he said "I can't get across" and came back left, and at the cement pad before the bridge he turned right and went across. Whew! Straight ahead was a red dirt expanse through an open stand of trees. To the left was an expanse of grass sloping downhill and divided by a three foot high stone wall. This expanse bordered the creek. So here were some options. Did the judges, in fact, turn left before the bridge to stay on the west side of the creek? Did they continue straight over the bridge and up the dirt hill to the asphalt drive above? Or did they turn left after the bridge?



Dove went forward and up the hill veering to the left. He then turned left to parallel the creek and continued forward. The terrain was sloping down and left to level out at the creek. Once we passed the end of the stone wall, he slid into the lower path the judges had actually taken. He was still a little high when he passed the article but as I came closer, I saw what I thought was a piece of a black plastic bag. I thought it was trash but he turned back and sat. As I came closer I saw it was a square black leather patch. He had just allowed me to hang on for the ride without having to think or help him in any way.



Jean-Maria Higginbotham (track layer), Tom, Luci and Ron Seeley (judges) and Dove

As I was approaching him and the article I said "Do you know what you just did? You just became a VST dog."

## Tracking Class in the COVID-19 Era

What a lovely morning to start the winter tracking class at Parkhill Park in Grand Prairie. The weather was brisk and the fields were sippy!

This winter the Beginner Class consists of a German Shepherd, a Bloodhound, a Beagle and a Belgian Tervuren – with a Golden Retriever that we hope can join us when she's out of quarantine. The Intermediate Class has a Portuguese Water Dog, a Bloodhound and a Belgian Malinois. Instructors are Marian Beck Edwards and Sarah Helber.

Everyone was appropriately masked and kept proper social distances (our Beginner Class does include one family unit that can stand closer together). It really is nice to be in an outdoor sport that we can continue to enjoy with our dogs during this time - and we're finally getting accustomed to the distancing and to speaking louder through the masks.

Winter Session classes are scheduled to continue through Sunday, February 28, weather permitting.



## Upcoming Tests

**January 17: TDU, VST  
DFWTC**

**Bedford, TX - closes  
Jan 7**

**Charlene Dunn  
crdslabs@yahoo.com**

January 24: TD  
El Paso, TX - closes January 14  
Michele Mauldin  
mauldinm@msn.com

January 31: TDX, VST  
Fort Worth, TX - closes Jan 14  
Judy Jackson  
jjblitzt@hotmail.com

February 7: TDX  
Placitas, NM - closes Jan 27  
Doranna Durgin  
doranna@changespell.com

February 14: TDX  
El Paso - closes Feb 4  
Michele Mauldin  
mauldinm@msn.com

February 28: TD, TDU, TDX  
Fort Worth, TX - closes Feb 18  
Judy Jackson  
jjblitzt@hotmail.com

February 28: TD, TDX  
Littleton, CO - closes 18  
Tracey Griffith  
traceygriffith2@gmail.com

February 28: TDX  
Smithville, MO - closes Feb 17  
Neida Heusinkvelt  
neida1@aol.com

February 28: TD  
Placitas, NM - closes Feb 17  
Laurel Shelton  
simontdx@gmail.com

March 7: TD  
Smithville, MO - closes Feb 25  
Debbie McHenry  
mmc5301@aol.com

continued

## DFWTC Meeting Minutes November 8, 2020 - for approval

Minutes of the November 8, 2020, DFW Tracking Club Meeting  
West Park, Euless, TX

Tom Hacholski, President, called the meeting to order at 12 noon.

In attendance were Charlene Dunn (Treasurer), Tracy Freeling, Pandora Galbraith (Board Member), Tom Hacholski (President), Sarah Helber, Jean-Maria Higginbotham (Secretary), Pam Joyce, Katie McCullough, Pat McGowan, Dori Page, Shari Price, Benita Zapata. Guests Teresa Collum, Lucinda Seeley, Ron Seeley

Minutes of the August 22, 2020 meeting, were approved as published in the September 2020 Tracks.

Report of the President:

- Thanks to test workers including judges (Seeleys), Charlene (Chair/secretary), tracklayers, et al.
- Thanks to Laurel for work on Tracks.

Report of the Secretary: none

Report of the Treasurer:

- The Treasurer's Report was passed around for review
- General Liability insurance renewal is due end of December.
- Club member's dues are due by December 31.

Election of New Members:

- Second reading of member application from Teresa Collum
- Teresa Collum elected new member by secret ballot

Unfinished Business:

- January 16-17, 2021 VST/TDU
  - Judges are Linda Baschnagel and Stephanie Crawford
  - Decision made to update the test to offer 4 VST and 2 TDU based on sites available
  - Committee: Charlene, Cindi, Jean-Maria, Jeanine, and John G. for hospitality
- March 13-14, 2021 TD/TDX
  - Judges changed to Sue Boyd and Inge Suchanek
  - Site: Grasslands 49 and 71.
  - Tracks offered will be 4X, 4T
- AKC Companion Events Group representative
  - Pam Joyce has not received any communication from AKC.
  - Charlene to follow-up with AKC

continued

## DFWTC Meeting Minutes November 8, 2020 - continued

- Changes to the Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Rules, and Member Application
  - Proposed changes previously mailed to all members were reviewed
  - Member application changes referred to board for update
  - Benita motioned that changes to all 3 documents be approved with small wording changes discussed in the meeting. Seconded by Pandora
  - The Motion carried
- Scent Work Trials in June 2021 – no updates
- T-shirts
  - Incorrect color t-shirts donated to shelter

### New Business

- Christmas Party / December meeting – no party or December meeting this year due to pandemic
- Winter classes
  - Instructors: Sarah & Marian
  - Location: Park Hill Park
  - Schedule: Start weekend of 1/9 and finish 2/27.
  - 4 beginners, 4 intermediate

### Next Meeting

- January 17, 2021, following the conclusion of the VST/TDU test

Pandora made a motion to adjourn; Benita seconded; and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean-Maria Higginbotham, Secretary



## MORE UPCOMING TESTS

March 14: TDX  
Littleton, CO - closes March 10  
Lynn Kaemmerer  
badblackcorgi@gmail.co

March 14: TDX  
Sullivan, MO - closes March 4  
Kristi Shaw  
stlvizsla@gmail.com

**March 14: TD, TDX  
DFWTC  
Decatur, TX - closes  
March 4  
Charlene Dunn  
crdslabs@yahoo.com**

March 14: TD  
Littleton, CO - closes March 3  
Lynn Kaemmerer  
badblackcorgi@gmail.com

March 28: TDX  
Littleton, CO - closes March 24  
Lynn Kaemmerer  
badblackcorgi@gmail.com

April 4: TDX  
Springfield, MO - closes March 25  
Cathy Hawkins  
cathyannhawkins1@gmail.com

April 4: TD  
Littleton, CO - closes March 24  
Lynn Kaemmerer  
badblackcorgi@gmail.com

April 4: VST  
Rogersville, MO - closes Mar 25  
Cathy Hawkins  
cathyannhawkins1@gmail.com

April 23: TD, TDX  
Sullivan, MO - closes April 8  
Carol L. McCorkle  
schwartzpudel@hughes.net

April 25: TD, TDX, TDU  
Houston, TX - closes April 15  
Denise McClure  
edmundmcclure@comcast.net



November 23, 2020

At the November 2020 AKC Board Meeting the following changes to the *Tracking Regulations* were approved:

Eligibility Restrictions for Exhibitors/Tracklayers - The *Tracking Regulations* were amended effecting an exhibitor's and tracklayer's eligibility from thirty days to ten days prior to an event. This change to the Regulations is effective for all tests held on or after January 1, 2021.

## **TRACKING REGULATIONS**

### **CHAPTER 1**

#### **GENERAL REGULATIONS**

#### **Section 12. Dogs that May Not Compete. (Paragraph 8)**

No exhibitor may show a dog under a judge at a tracking test if the exhibitor has participated in a training session taught by that judge within ten (10) days prior to the date of the event.

## **TRACKING REGULATIONS**

### **CHAPTER 2**

#### **REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING**

#### **Section 9. (Paragraph 4)**

People cannot act as tracklayers for dogs if, within the past 10 days, they have boarded, laid track for, or regularly trained the dogs whose tracks they are to lay. Tracklayer must not be a person with whom the dog has resided or a member of the household or a member of the immediate family of the dog's handler. The judges will determine the order in which the tracks are run and the number of each track.



## Wally Remembered by David Bull

I was told by his breeder that Wally would be more animated than the normal Golden male. I should have asked if that was a prediction or a warning. He graduated Magna Cum Lucky from his puppy class. He was good at everything except heeling, sitting, staying and lying down. During his puppy months at home he left a trail of destroyed items, well documented by Marla. He actually did well in tracking, including tracking through chest deep water at George Bush Park. He thought of Charlene as some kind of goddess, and would start stomping his feet in the crate at class. We tried agility and made it to the Excellent Class. At class he did well at the skills, but the desire to make friends with every single new person he saw at a trial overwhelmed his desire to focus on the game. On a whim, I decided to teach him to detect ignitable liquids. He was one of only two dogs at the North American Police Working Dog Association test for tracking and nose work that was not a GSD or Malinois. Our judge said, "I guess I have to pass him, but I prefer that a dog show at least some small amount of aggression upon finding our suspect". The detection we did at arson crime scenes is similar to AKC nose work, but done in burned cars and buildings. He quickly decided this was his favorite. When in his working collar, he ignored everyone and concentrated only on finding that odor. He also did some tracking for humans with the same sense of urgency. He was a sweetheart at the office and at fire scenes and would let people pet him as they told their stories. After he started to develop a little arthritis, he taught me the value of sitting outside every evening and doing nothing, but doing it together. Marla and I enjoyed the music, as the dogs were enjoying a symphony of smells along with the vision of birds flying overhead. His nose and ears were constantly in motion as we sat. He was always in arm's reach.



### Contact information:

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

E-mail:  
[info@dfwtc.org](mailto:info@dfwtc.org)

Website:  
<https://www.dfwtc.org>

**DFW Tracking Club (DFWTC) was founded in August 2005.**

**The DFW Tracking Club encourages the training and competition of all breeds of canine companion animals for scent related activities, whether it is for fun, competition or for the potential life-saving value. It is the goal of the DFW Tracking Club to educate the dog-owning public about scent related activities for all breeds, and to encourage sportsmanlike behavior at all times, making the safety of the dogs, trainers, and handlers a priority. The DFW Tracking Club encourages dog owners to spend quality time with their dog(s) and to make friends with people who have similar interests.**

**The DFW Tracking Club is an AKC licensed club, and a 501(c) tax exempt organization.**

**For more information about the DFW Tracking Club, see the contact information to the left.**