



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!

Temper TDX

by Jean-Maria Higginbothan

December 5, 2021, Sullivan, Missouri. Gateway Tracking Club TDX test with judges Inge Suchanek and Sandra McMillan.

The morning of the tracking test dawned cloudy, damp and cool. Temper, aka "she who will not be denied", decided we would get up at our normal 6:30 am even though I told her the draw wasn't until 9:30 am. Unconvinced, she requested breakfast, a walk and a morning nap.

At last it was time to head over to the fairgrounds for the draw. It was good to see lots of friends including club members and a couple of exhibitors as well. We drew track 4 of 5. I thought our track would probably be over by the water tower where Temper earned her TD a year ago. Good tracking fields and she loved them last year.

When it was our turn, we followed the judges' van over to the water tower and parked. I got Temper ready and double checked my line. We walked across the street to the judges and they pointed to our start flag in the field to the left of the water tower. Temper was more than ready to go and pulled hard back across the street to the start flag. A good sniff of the Christmas sock and she was off. It was a short 60 yard leg, a brief check right and then she committed to the left and motored down that 110 yard leg, executing a short circle at the corner and committing to the right, pulling even harder. Soon I saw an article which she slapped with a paw, glanced back to make sure I was paying attention and took off, barely giving me time to pick up the article - a Christmas pot holder.

Now Temper was in her element, working with great confidence. We came
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DFW TRACKING CLUB

Tracks



Next Meeting
Sunday, January 16
following the TDU/VST
(no earlier than 12-noon)

Hurst Fire Station
2100 Precinct Line Road
Hurst, TX 76054
Just northeast of the
TCC-NE campus

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President's Message

After a year long hiatus, and with the introduction of Covid vaccines, tracking tests around the country were held again in 2021. DFWTC held its January and November TDU/VST tests and the TD/TDX in March. A successful Scent Work trial was held in May. Our membership, and some non-members as well, assisted as test/trial committee, tracklayers, equipment and test personnel drivers and general workers which was greatly appreciated by this President. The updated Constitution and By-Laws were finalized through the AKC. All in all, a good year.

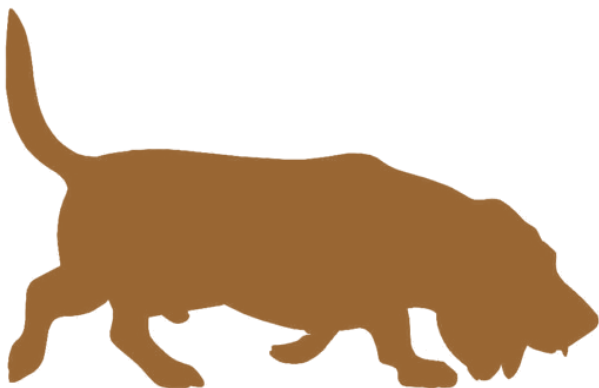
With the good, 2022 has arrived with some challenges for the Club. Laurel Hoevker, after six and a half years, has resigned as editor of this publication - *TRACKS*. I have mentioned in the past that in my travels I have found few tracking club newsletters that can come close to equaling the quantity of information and quality of layout as our *TRACKS*. Laurel did a great job in collecting articles and data to keep us members informed. The challenge now for the membership is to find someone to take over this position.

Tracking sites availability continues to be a challenge. With the seemingly never-ending strains of Covid, public facilities - college campuses and office/business parks - are reluctant to give approval for use of their sites. Even with that, all of a sudden, this past year, grass burrs/stickers have taken over some of the manicured lawns at these facilities, not to mention various training and test fields we have used in the past. We need to search for suitable tracking sites for future tests.

Lastly, Cindi, Jeanine and Shari sent out inquires to various Scent Work Trial secretaries to find suitable judges for our trials. This was most helpful but until someone steps up to fill in as Trail Chairman, we cannot make application for our May Scent Work Trial. The Club voted to hold these trials and support scent related events under the rules and regulations of the AKC. This vote required changing our Constitution and By-Laws and has deeper ramifications than just not holding a trial as an option. It is very important that we meet this challenge.

I would like to thank the membership for their involvement in the Club's activities during this past year and look forward to the same for 2022.

Tom



Temper TDX continued from page 1

close to a thick tree line. She casted a little left, then right, then headed into the trees. At first it looked like there was a way through but as she worked to find the scent in the trees, it was clear she was off scent. At one point in those trees I managed to get my hat and right arm stuck in some briars. I asked her to “wait!” repeatedly while I untangled myself. Temper then decided to work quite a distance to the right and pulled me back out of the woods. A quick glance to my right told me the judges were still standing a little way behind where we entered the woods. It was clear Temper was not finding the scent in this area of the field.

Tracking handlers know you can support the dog while they work out a scent puzzle and judges are patient as long as the dog continues to work and Temper was not giving up. I gave her some water, re-scented her and stood sort of looking back towards where we entered the woods. Temper continued checking and methodically found her way back to where we entered the woods and then took off down the leg. I held my breathe a little, waiting to see if we would hear a whistle but she was clearly on scent and we were approaching a different tree line. Turns out that was supposed to be a left turn at the thick tree line, we just took the scenic route.

We blasted through the tree line into a new field surrounded on all sides by tree lines. Barely out of the trees, Temper circled and committed to a right but very quickly turned left. By this point, I was just trying to keep up with my fast working dog. Then I saw something white on the ground ahead. Temper briefly paused but went right back to work, trusting me to grab the article, a Christmas kitchen towel, and store it in my pack while almost running to keep up with her.

As we approached yet another tree line, Temper made an open left turn and pulled hard towards the tree line 125 yards away. We picked our way through the trees and entered a third field. Temper was pulling hard but I could tell she was tiring. Tired or not, she kept going and then I saw “IT” - just to the right. I gave Temper time to pick up the scent and within seconds she was standing over the glove. I quickly worked my way up the line, grabbed the final article (the glove) and waved it in the air for the judges to see.

Temper TDX!

Here are the numbers –

- Temper’s track was 810 yards
- 6 turns (2 right 90 degree, 3 left 90 degree, 1 left open)
- 2 sets of cross tracks ignored
- 3 intermediate articles found and indicated
- 2 real sets of woods plus a bonus set for good measure

All those numbers equaled an **AKC Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) title** and a trip to the beach instead of going to Houston for another TDX test!



The Road to Dove’s TDX Title

by Tom Hacholski

Over the years I have come to believe that passing a VST tracking test is easier than passing a TDX test. I have also found that many of my peers feel the same. Part of it has to do with the fact that I train my dogs with VST in mind right from Day 1. By training for VST, the dog deals with the scenting challenges that are present with this level of tracking. It would seem then, if you’ve trained for and passed a VST test, that TDX should be easier.

So picking up where we left off after all of the cancelled tests due to Covid-19, Dove and I restarted our journey to enter and ultimately pass a TDX test. Of our recent attempts the Basset Hound Club of Greater Ft. Worth test was first. I won’t go into everything that was going through my head but

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The Road to Dove's TDX Title continued from page 3

only say that a tracking judge's mindset as an exhibitor has to be totally cleared of any preconception of the track that is to be run. Because of this mindset, I didn't provide any teamwork help by pushing Dove off in the wrong direction from the start flag.

So two weeks later Donna, Dove and I traveled to Sullivan, MO, for Gateway Tracking Club's TDX test. When I drew track #3 I knew which field we were going to get. It's the "field from hell" in which no one has ever passed. We were no exception though I would have to say that the cover in the bowl was better than it looked. We failed by paralleling the leg that the first intermediate article was on. Our nemesis - missed articles. Dove was up the hill and on his way to the first obstacle when we heard the TWEET!!!

A week later on to Houston for the HOT Dog Club's TDX test. Good start, through the crosstracks, indicating the first intermediate article and after the fourth turn through the tree line/ditch obstacle. At that point my judge's mind set kicked in. The judges just HAD to place an article pretty close after the obstacle to draw the dog through. I was looking for it like crazy but Dove was on a mission to continue down the leg. We got down the leg and Dove sat at an article - buried in the grass a beer can with rocks in it. I held it up just in case and we made the last turn - TWEET!!! The can could have been a viable VST article but was not the one the judges plotted on our track - it was back after the obstacle just where I thought one should be. All in all I was very pleased with Dove's effort - progress!

So finally the next weekend Dove and I made the long drive for the Tracking Club of El Paso's TDX test. On Saturday I had taken Dove to an area where the club normally holds its TD tests to do a walkabout and reacquaint him to the sandy terrain. We didn't get ten feet into a field when he lifted up his leg - stickers - a lot of them. Pulled them out and went back to the car. I had my Crocs on and I must have had fifty stickers stuck in the soles of each shoe. The next morning at the draw the judges advised all of us exhibitors that they had previously walked the various areas of the Horizon site and marked off the fields that they would have normally used as not suitable because of the huge amount of stickers. The areas they did use were relatively free of stickers and if they did find some, they tried their best to remove them from the leg(s). I drew track # 3 and was cautioned beforehand that the tracklayer had dropped the glove somewhere along the track and that they did place another glove at the end. Well instead of missing intermediate articles in the past, Dove now had a chance of finding three. His start was good but about fifty yards into the track my cotton line got caught up in a shrub and trying to yank it out I popped the line and Dove did a little turnabout. I told him to find it and he moved on. First turn OK and down the second leg, past the first set of crosstracks and to the first intermediate article. He continued on and indicated loss of scent. Problem was Dove veered left and went off on what I hoped was not for a walk. He started to come back and move to the right so I followed him along and then he pulled me forward down the leg and shortly to the accidentally dropped glove. Maybe this article helped pull him around the second corner? On the fifth leg he sat at the second (third?) intermediate article and then turned soon after down the long 270 yard last leg to the final glove. I, of course, hugged my dog and finally held up the article - "Whoops!" from behind me and an incoming hug from a sobbing judge.

Much thanks to Charlene for giving me the training tips to help Dove overcome what had been some of his weak points. We did a regimen of acute angle starts, serpentines with a lot of articles and the ten turn cross. This not only helped Dove earn his TDX title but also become a **Champion Tracker!**



Note from the Editor: Linda Baschnagel isn't on our DFWTC Roster but she has been with us many times as a judge and exhibitor. I'm pleased to share her Champion Tracker story with you... especially since Cass is a Sheltie. (My sheltie, Heidi, happily concurs!) Laurel

Destination: Champion Tracker One CT Journey

To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, "It's the not the Destination, it's the Journey." The Champion Tracker title is both for sure.

Cass' journeys have taken him to Texas for more than tracking. Cass won his last major to finish his breed championship at the Beaumont KC held in Houston on July 21, 2012.

In December 2012, Cass came to Kansas City. His breeder, Patty Page, was in search of a forever home for Cass where he could "have a job" and be shown in performance to earn the Versatility Excellent Title (VCX) in the American Shetland Sheepdog Association (ASSA).



This 3-year and 6-day old boy fit into our home perfectly and started his performance training immediately.

Tracking was Cass' first performance title. Cass earned the TD title at the DFW Tracking Test at the Fossil Ridge Ranch on November 10, 2013.

In 2014, Cass earned a PT and CD to complete the requirements for the CH + VCX title in ASSA. But this was only the beginning to his performance career.



Training continued for rally and obedience along with tracking. Cass and I trained with Carol Clark and her border collie, Sugar. We were training both TDX and VST as conditions permitted. On April 10, 2016 at the Gateway Tracking Test in Sullivan, Missouri, Cass passed the VST on the first attempt. Carol and Sugar passed also.

OK, two down and one to go. We entered the Springfield DTC Tracking Test in October 2016. We were not successful.



2017 came along and there was a huge obstacle in the road on our journey that took me away from training. In March 2017, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Surgery and chemo treatments followed.

2018 and 2019 TDX tests entered were not successful after the extended break in training, but there were parts of tracks and Cass' attitude that kept me on the path to continue. 2020 was a bust due to the pandemic; so on to 2021 we restarted our journey.

Spring tests in 2021 resulted in more failures. I decided that the fall tests would be our final attempts. Fall tests had some bright spots and some definite disappointments. Several tests I was on the alternate list. At the Tracking

Club of El Paso TDX Test on December 19, 2021 Cass passed on Track #5. The following Wednesday (Dec 22), Cass turned 12 years young.

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Destination: Champion Tracker continued from page 5

Talking with my tracklayer (Jeanne) after the test, she shared she was a breast cancer and bone marrow cancer survivor and really loved that she could still do dog sports. I shared my cancer survivor story. Fate put us together for this day. God gave the humans a time to share this day in a different way.

CH CT U-CH U-CD Cataway Shelmar Casanova CDX PCDX BN RI PT SWA SCE TKA CGC ASSA CH+VCX

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all of the judges, tracklayers and clubs that made this possible. And thanks to everyone who has put in a track for me, offered advice, training tips and encouragement. A special thanks to my husband, Marshall. He is a constant and enthusiastic supporter of my “dog showing habit” and has also turned into a valuable tracklayer and traveling partner. Thanks to Charlene for her encouragement and lending me a cool coat she used for CT Maddie TDU. And to Carol Clark who got me into tracking in the first place.



Thank you for reading my story,
Linda Baschnagel and Cass



Footnote: I have tracked with 4 dogs. Erin was my first tracking dog and she retired from tracking after earning a TD. Cass is my third CT. Among Shetland Sheepdogs, Cass is the 47th TDX, 11th CT and the 2nd CH CT Shetland Sheepdog.

Cass has earned 33 titles in AKC and UKC..... so far!

Upcoming Tests

**January 16: TDU, VST
DFWTC Bedford, TX -
closes Jan 6**

**Charlene Dunn
crdslabs@yahoo.com**

January 30: TD, VST
Fort Worth, TX - closes Jan 20
Judy Jackson
jjblitzt@hotmail.com

January 30: TD
El Paso, TX - closes Jan 20
Michele Mauldin
mauldinm@msn.com

February 6: TDX
Placitas, NM - closes Jan 26
Gloria Napper-Owen
napperow@comcast.net

February 20: TDX
El Paso, TX - closes Feb 10
Michele Mauldin
mauldinm@msn.com

February 27: TDU, TD, TDX
Fort Worth, TX - closes Feb 17
Judy Jackson
jjblitzt@hotmail.com

February 27: TDX
Smithville, MO - closes Feb 17
Ellen Lash
ellenlash@gmail.com

February 27: TD
Estancia, NM - closes Feb 17
Gloria Napper-Owen
napperow@comcast.net

March 6: TD, TDX
Littleton, CO - closes Feb 24
Carol Makowski
bristleconeassets@yahoo.com

March 6: TDX
Sullivan, MO - closes Feb 22
Pat Thayer
conobtra@gmail.com

DFWTC Meeting Minutes November 14, 2021 - for approval

Minutes of November 14, 2021 DFW Tracking Club Meeting

Main Fire Station, 2100 Precinct Line Road, Hurst, Texas

Tom Hacholski - President, called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

In attendance were members Charlene Dunn, John Galbraith, Pandora Galbraith, Tom Hacholski, Sarah Helber, Laurel Hoevker, Pam Joyce, Pat McGowan, Dori Page, Shari Price, Benita Zapata. Guests were Roberta Dunn and Judy McDonald.

Minutes of the August 14, 2021, were approved as corrected

1. Laurel pointed out that under Unfinished Business, Item 5 Hats/Visors, Line b. "Pam suggested" was incomplete
 - a. It is believed that Pam suggested a vendor
2. When the name of the vendor is remembered, it will be added to the minutes

President's Report – Tom welcomed guests and judges; thanked all who helped with the test and John Galbraith for the use of the fire station and for preparing the meal. Condolences on the loss of Pat McGowan's mother and Teresa's father.

Secretary's Report – given by Tom in Jean-Maria's absence

1. Thank you card was received from Pat McGowan for the flowers sent
2. Marc Pons (LBJ Grasslands contact) wrote Sarah that the gas company no longer needs the road we use next to the HQ area on Unit 71 and the road area would be reclaimed. The gate will still be there, but vehicles will not be allowed on the road area while it is being reseeded. Marc doesn't think this will impact us much this year, but will keep us posted.
3. Resignation letter was received from Laurel Hoevker who will no longer be Editor of the *Tracks* newsletter
4. An Introduction letter was received from Jacob Hupp as the new Legislative Analysis/Community Outreach Coordinator for Texas on the AKC's Government Relations Staff
5. Charlene Dunn received confirmation from the AKC for the new Club Officers for 2021-2022

Treasurer's Report – report was passed around for review

1. Charlene reported that Scent Work boxes were sold for the Springer Spaniel National at the ULine price, as approved at the last meeting.

Report of Committees – none

New Member Application First Reading –

1. Laurel read Judy McDonald's application to become a Regular Member of the DFWTC
 - a. The \$20.00 membership dues were included with the application and given to Charlene, Treasurer
 - b. The second reading and vote will be held at the next meeting

Unfinished Business

1. Recap of November 14, 2021 TDU/VST
 - a. Charlene explained that the reason for the change in judges was because there were so few entries and airfare is so expensive now
 - b. Linda Baschnagle and Ray Desmarais bowed out and will use their airline tickets to come to a future test
 - c. Possible reasons for the lack of entries was discussed
2. January 15 – 16, 2022 TDU/VST
 - a. Judges: Linda Baschnagle (replacing Sue Ammerman) and Allison Platt
 - b. Sites: HEB and TCCNE
 - i. alternate sites for VST because of the stickers were discussed
 - c. Committee: Charlene Dunn (Test Chair/Secretary), Tom Hacholski (Chief Tracklayer) John Galbraith (Hospitality), Cindi Todd, Jean-Maria Higginbotham
3. March 12 – 13, 2022 TD/TDX
 - a. AKC application submitted and approved
 - b. Judges: Sharon Jolly and Sue Boyd
 - i. Sue Boyd has asked to be replaced because of mobility issues
 - ii. Finding a replacement judge was deferred to the Judges Committee
 - c. Sites: Request has been submitted for Units 49 and 71 at LBJ Grasslands
 - i. We hope to not be impacted by the reclamation of the road for this test.
 - d. 2TD/5TDX
 - e. Still need Chief Tracklayer

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DFWTC Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2021 - continued

4. Scent Work Trials – May 21 – 22, 2022
 - a. Site: Camp Carter
 - b. Contract with Camp Carter
 - i. Club needs to decide which buildings will be used
 1. Charlene recommended that we use the same buildings less one cabin as last year and use the Nature Center for Detective only
 - a. this would require a “runner”
 - b. Shari Price volunteered on her Spider
 - c. Judges
 - i. The question was asked if judges could enter a dog(s)
 1. Yes at the club’s discretion and that would be included in the judges contract
 2. No motion or vote was made to allow judges to enter a dog(s) in our Trials
 - d. Trial Chairman needed
 - e. Jeanine Wilson will be Secretary
 - f. Charlene will submit AKC application after the first of the year
 - g. Charlene moved that a committee of 4 members who are involved in Scent Work be created to look for a new site for our Scent Work Trials; Benita seconded and the motion passed.
5. Constitution and Bylaws
 - a. AKC has not acknowledged but AKC does not have to approve
 - b. An email will be sent to all Club Members with updated Constitution and Bylaws
6. Hats/Visors
 - a. Laurel moved that discussion be tabled until next meeting; seconded and the motion passed

New Business

1. Winter Tracking Classes
 - a. Instructors: Sarah Helber and Marian Beck-Edwards
 - b. Registration opens December 9
 - c. 8 weeks beginning Sunday, January 9, 2022
 - d. 4 beginners and 4 intermediates
 - i. 7:30 a.m. – beginners
 - ii. 9:30 a.m.– Intermediates
2. *Tracks* Editor needed
 - a. Knowledge of Microsoft Publisher helpful
 - b. Do not have to attend meetings
3. AKC Donation requested
 - a. For the AKC Humane Fund which gives grants to shelters to help victims of domestic abuse bring their dogs with them
 - b. Charlene moved that we do not make a donation; Pat McGowan seconded and the motion passed
4. Letter of Introduction of Jacob Hupp as the new Legislative Analysis/Community Outreach Coordinator for Texas on the AKC’s Government Relations Staff
 - a. Letter will be given to Cindi Todd
5. Christmas Party and December meeting (usually held at Charlene’s home)
 - a. Charlene will be out of town 3 weekends in December
 - b. Charlene moved that we do not have a Christmas Party and that the December DFWTC meeting be cancelled; Tom seconded and the motion passed.
6. Marilu Meredith gave Laurel “Tracking Dog” patches to be given to the club
 - a. Tom suggested they be sewn onto gloves to be given to TD pass teams
 - b. Tom will write Marilu a thank you note.

The next regular meeting of the DFWTC will be held January 16, 2022, at the Hurst Fire Station following the conclusion of the TDU/VST.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. Meeting concluded at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Hoevker in the absence of Jean-Maria Higginbotham

More Upcoming Tests

March 6: TD, TDU, TDX
Fort Worth, TX -
closes Feb 24

Judy Jackson
jjblitz@hotmail.com

March 6: TD
Smithville, MO -
closes Feb 24

Debbie McHenry
mmc5301@aol.com

March 13: TD, TDX
Littleton, CO - closes Mar 2
Lynn Kaemmerer
badblackcorgi@gmail.com

**March 13: TD, TDX
DFWTC
Decatur, TX -
closes Mar 3
Charlene Dunn
crdslabs@yahoo.com**

March 20: TD, TDX
Houston, TX - closes Mar 10
Marsha McCaddon
events@hotdogclub.org

March 27: TDX
Littleton, CO - closes Mar 16
Tracey Griffith
traceygriffith2@gmail.com

March 27: TDU, VST
Claremore, OK -
closes Mar 17
Jane Whittstock
intcinfo@juno.com

March 28: TD, TDX
Gray Summit, MO -
closes Mar 16
Merrielle Turnbull
mtwss53@gmail.com

April 3: TD, TDX
Gray Summit, MO -
closes Mar 2
Denise Carew
denise.carew@hushmail.com

★

WANTED!



★

EDITOR for Tracks

Preferably Alive

contact Laurel for more information



Contact information:

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

E-mail:
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.