

# STA on Track

the newsletter of Southwest Tracking Association  
of Metropolitan Houston, Inc.



Spring 2005

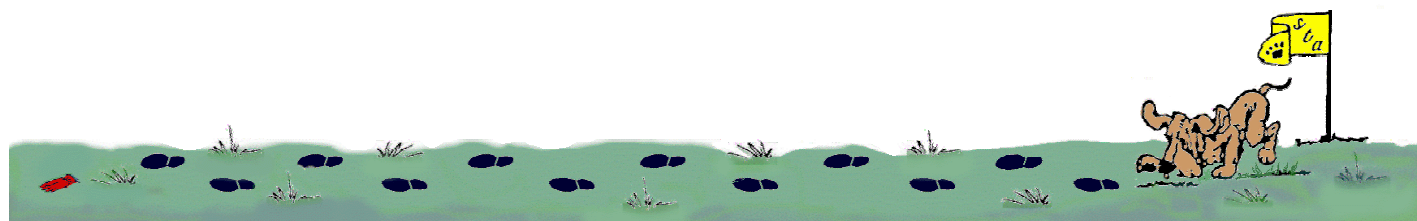
www.southwesttracking.org

According to the April issue of the AKC's *Gazette* the tracking statistics for 2004 are as follows:

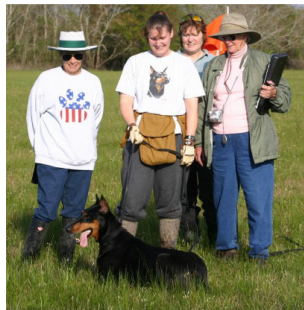
	<u># of tests held</u>	<u># of entries</u>	<u># of passes</u>	<u>passing rate</u>	<u># dogs per test</u>
TD	159	868	511	58.870 %	5.459
TDX	134	530	93	17.547 %	3.955
VST	54	223	12	.0538 %	4.1296

So, this made some of us wonder how our TD and TDX tracking fields stack up to the national average. While the comparisons aren't exactly apples to apples, they are still interesting. All events were held in Bush Park, except for those tests marked with an asterisk. The marked events were held at the San Jacinto Monument.

<u>Test</u>	<u>TD entries</u>	<u>TD passes</u>	<u>passing rate</u>	<u>TDX entries</u>	<u>TDX passes</u>	<u>passing rate</u>
<b>2002</b>						
STA (Jan)	3	2	66 %	4	1	25 %
HOT (Mar)	6	4	66 %	3	1	33 %
STA (Apr)	6	3	50 %	3	0	0 %
SJKC (Apr)	2	0	0 %	1	0	0 %
GHGRC (Nov)	3	1	20 %	2	0	0 %
HOT (Dec)*	4	2	50 %	4	0	0 %
SJKC (Dec)	3	1	33 %	4	0	0 %
<b>Total 2002</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>48 %</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>2003</b>						
STA (Jan)	1	1	100 %	5	1	20 %
HOT (Mar)	2	1	50 %	5	0	0 %
STA (Apr)	4	2	50 %	4	0	0 %
GHGRC (Nov)	3	2	66 %	2	0	0 %
HOT (Dec)	3	0	0 %	4	0	0 %
SJKC (Dec)	4	0	0 %	4	0	0 %
<b>Total 2003</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>35 %</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>2004</b>						
STA (January)	4	1	25 %	4	0	0 %
STA (April)	6	2	33 %	3	2	66 %
STA (Nov)	4	2	50 %	4	2	50 %
HOT (Dec)*	4	1	25 %	4	0	0 %
SJKC (Dec)*	5	2	40 %	3	0	0 %
<b>Total 2004</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>35 %</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22 %</b>
<b>2005</b>						
STA (January)	3	1	33 %	4	1	25 %
HOT (March)	4	2	50 %	3	1	33 %



Three STA members earned new titles at HOT Dog Club's Test on Sunday, March 20, 2005 in George Bush Park under judges Linda Bryan and Sally Elkins:



Zoey, TD  
a Doberman Pinscher  
handled by Anne Smith.



Benden's LXXVII Sunset Strip,  
CDX TD a Golden Retriever  
handled by Kathleen Milford.



Tilbury's Dream Quest of Pal,  
TDX a Dalmatian  
handled by Tom Hacholski.

What does it take to become a tracking judge? What are the requirements and how complicated is the process? Here's a quick summary.

**To qualify as an applicant for TD or TDX judging must have:**

1. Owned, trained and handled a dog that has been awarded an AKC Tracking Dog title or Tracking Dog Excellent title, depending on class applying for.
2. Been active in the sport a minimum of **six (6)** consecutive years.
3. **Observed a tracking judge** in planning and plotting tracks. **Served as a tracklayer** at a minimum of five (5) TD or TDX tests, depending on class applying for. Participating in the Tracking Apprentice Program may substitute for two (2) of the tracklayer requirements.
4. **Actively participated as a trainer or an assistant trainer** in a dog training club or similar organization, specifically as a trainer or assistant trainer of the Tracking Dog or Tracking Dog Excellent class, depending on class applying for.

**To apply as a Provisional Judge:**

Forward completed application, questionnaire and Part I (open book test consisting of two questions) to the Obedience Department, P.O. Box 37930 Raleigh, NC 27627 to begin the approval process. In addition, must submit charts for at least two (2) tracks where you served as a tracklayer.

The application, questionnaire and Part I may be found from the AKC's [Downloadable Forms page](#).

Following the initial screening to determine that the applicant meets all minimum requirements and receives a "pass" on the Part I test, the applicant's name will be published on the Secretary's Page of the first available issue of the Gazette as an [Tracking Judging Applicant](#). This provides all interested persons the opportunity to comment on the applicant's judging qualifications.

**Provisional Approval:**

All applicants are required to pass a written test consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions, followed by a personal interview with one of the Tracking Field

Representatives. The Obedience Department will schedule a mutually convenient site where the test and interview may be held with the applicant and representative.

Applications are reviewed at the first available monthly meeting of the staff and board committees and referred to the next monthly meeting of the Board of Directors for final determination. Following review, applicants will receive written notification of the Board's action. If approved, the applicant's name will be published on the Secretary's Page of the first available issue of the *Gazette* as a [Provisional Tracking Dog, Tracking Dog Excellent or Variable Surface Tracking Dog judge](#). The judge may then accept judging assignments for the class approved.

As a Provisional Tracking Dog judge, he or she must judge a minimum of five (5) tests with at least three (3) different judges, only one of which may be a spouse. In addition, a satisfactory observation judging the approved class must be completed by an AKC Tracking Field Representative. (It is helpful for the Provisional Judge to inform the Obedience Department when judging assignments are accepted, for ease in scheduling the observation.)

**Regular Approval:**

Upon completion of the assignments and satisfactory observation, the Provisional Judge should contact the Obedience Department, listing the assignment completion dates and asking to be changed from Provisional status to Regular status for that class.

The staff will review the request for Regular status. In some cases, additional assignments or observations may be requested with approval delayed until the completion of same. In others, however, approval will be granted and the judge's name will be published on the Secretary's Page of the first available issue of the *Gazette* as [Provisional Tracking Judging Completed](#).

**To Apply for an Additional Class:**

The Regular Judge must judge a minimum of three (3) additional tests and have a satisfactory observation by a Tracking Field Rep. These are in addition to the five (5) judged to obtain Provisional status. If meeting these



Glenda Robbins and Highland Day-Timer earned their TD at STA's January Test under Kathleen Milford and Sharon Jolly on a track laid by Sally Elkins.



Cindy Lottinville and CH Rounder's Our Gal Sal TD AX AXJ earned their TDX under Linda Bryan and Sharon Jolly on a track laid by Karen Cloud.

requirements, an application for the next class may be submitted and procedures are followed as explained above.

**Overview of Procedures:**

1. Complete Requirements for TD
2. Send in applications and Part I Test
3. Name published as Applicant
4. Take written test and interview with Tracking Rep
5. Name published as Provisional Judge
6. Judge a minimum of five (5) tests as a provisional judge, observed one (1) time by a Field Rep
7. Request Regular status
8. Judge a minimum of three (3) tests, observed one (1) time by a Field Rep
9. Complete requirements for Tracking Dog Excellent
10. Follow procedures 2 through 7

**Requirements to apply for VST:**

1. Must be an approved provisional or regular TDX judge;
2. Attended at least two (2) AKC Variable Surface Tracking workshops; or
3. Judge at least 3 VST matches provided that at least one of the VST matches is judged with a judge who has attended a VST Workshop.

**Provisional approval for VST:**

1. Complete overview steps 2 through 5

**Regular approval for VST:**

1. Judge at least 2 VST tests as a provisional judge and observed one (1) time by an AKC Tracking Field Representative.

So, you think you might want to become a judge someday? Start laying the groundwork now. Keep a log of all your tracking activities, including every time you lay a track at a test, or serve as a committee member, especially as chair, secretary or chief tracklayer. Keep copies of the tracks that you lay at tests, noting who the judges were and whether the dog passed or failed.

Assist or teach a formal tracking class, once or twice a year. You know how to teach a dog to track and putting together a class isn't that hard. Just work up a 6 to 8-week training plan, find 4 to 6 beginners and 1 or 2 fellow trackers to help. You won't believe how much you'll learn about this sport when you have to organize your thoughts in order to teach someone else. Also, the

insight you'll gain in working with other breeds is invaluable. An additional benefit: you'll be helping our sport grow by encouraging newbies to give it a try.

Know the rules, including the Tracking Regulations, the sections of the Obedience Regulations that apply to tracking and the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. Read everything you can about scent as it pertains to the sport of tracking, and learn how different conditions affect it.

Then, when you are close to applying, contact the judges for an upcoming test and ask if you can apprentice under them. This means that you'll walk each track as it is plotted, make your own field and judges maps, watch the dogs run on test day, then review the whole process with the "official judges." Ask them what kinds of things you need to work on. Have them write a summary of your performance and submit it to the AKC reps as a letter of recommendation.

Befriend the local judges and seek out their advice, and counsel. Once you've decided to start your application process, their support will help so much. I don't mean this to sound as calculated as it probably does, but they can really help coach you through the process, and help you prepare for the test.

Not all of us have what it takes to be a judge. In addition to a certain level of experience and knowledge about the sport, it requires stamina, concentration, and a lot of understanding and patience. However, it is a lot of fun to be out in the field, getting to see up close how the dogs work through the tracks that you've plotted. It's almost as rewarding as putting a title on your own dog!

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**We finally have t-shirts for sale!** We will have a limited number of the shirts that you've seen on our website, available for purchase for \$12.00 each at the April meeting and September workshop.

**Don't forget!** The new tracking regulations go into affect on June 1. They are available online and hardcopies can be ordered from the AKC for \$2.00.



David Meredith and Sealord Ram Jet CD earned their TD at the Dallas Obedience Club's Test in February 2005.

Jeff Shaver and Evrmor Rose Madder Blackwood earned their TD at the Greater Kansas City Dog Training Club's Test in March 2005. (*sorry, no picture, yet!*)

# Fascinating Scent

*a seminar dealing with scent and a dog's ability to follow it*  
presented by Susan and Orrin Eldred.

**Saturday & Sunday, September 10 & 11, 2005**

George Bush Park, Houston, Texas

\$95.00 for both days includes the Eldred's book, *FASCINATING SCENT*, continental breakfast and lunch. \$80.00 Early Bird Special if received prior to August 15, 2005.

The flyer and registration materials are available from STA's website at [www.southwesttracking.org](http://www.southwesttracking.org).  
For more information contact Jan Nuzzo [jannuzzo@nushow.com](mailto:jannuzzo@nushow.com) or Kathleen Milford [kmilford@flash.net](mailto:kmilford@flash.net)

## STA

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