

UBT Trails & Tales

Newsletter of the United Blood Trackers



June, 2018 Volume 1 Issue 6

In This Issue

There is a wealth of information in this month's issue. Lots of news about changes in our organization, as well as a really great story about a dog that made a difference.

In my efforts to produce this newsletter in a timely fashion, please note that there will be a deadline for submissions. To have your event or story published in a current edition, you must have all information

to me by the 10th of that month. Anything received after that won't appear until the following month.

If you'd like to submit a story, we'd love to hear from you. I'm looking for training tips, stories about special dogs, and anything tracking-related. I know plenty of you have stories to tell... You can email me:

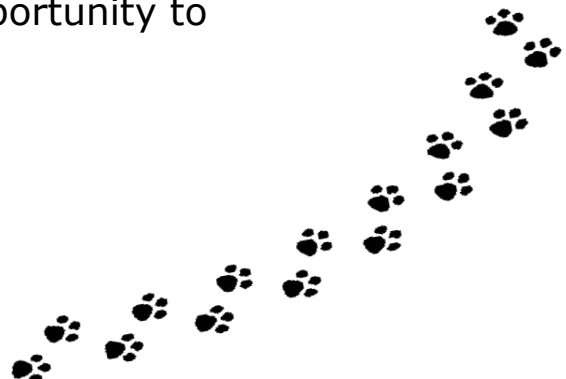
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Trackfest 2019?

Our search for a site for Trackfest 2019 continues. If you think that you know of a perfect site and you are willing to be a local coordinator, **get in touch with Jerry Gregston jerrygregston@yahoo.com ASAP.** We have several serious proposals already but would like to give everybody an opportunity to submit theirs.

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
Survey Results	3
Calendar of Events	3
Get the Puppy!	4
	5



President's Message

Jolanta Jeanneney

Dear United Blood Trackers members,

This is my last message as president since I have decided not to run for another term. I have been your president for two years, and the time has come for me to retire from this position. I have also been membership director for many years, a job I am willing to continue if the board of directors would like me to do so. My reasons for not running for another term are purely personal - my human and canine family needs me much more now than two years ago.

I would like to thank you for your support, encouragement and a chance to do some good. Special thanks go to Andy Bensing and Cheri Faust for being such hard workers!

You might wonder how the UBT is going to elect the next president. Some explanation is needed about our organization. Our bylaws and corporate filing were made in the State of Illinois, and we follow the State Statutes. UBT is run by the board of directors who elect new officers from within the board for a one-year term. Board members have three-year terms, which are staggered. At the last meeting we welcomed a new director Jerry Gregston. Congratulations Jerry!

You also might ask how one becomes a director. Based on the organization and board needs, he/she is invited by the board and then voted in by the board members. This structure was created to provide stability and continuity of the organization. Directors do not draw wages and do not get reimbursed for their work, except for their travel to trackfest.

Our current Board is listed on the back page of this publication.

Selection of officers for the next term will take place on July 10, 2018, during our monthly meeting conducted by a conference call. New and re-selected officers will start their one-year term right away.

At present UBT is in a really good shape but no doubt, there are challenges ahead of us. When the organization was formed in 2005, the use of tracking dogs for the recovery of wounded game was just starting to take off. I don't know the number off the top of my head but many states were illegal back then. Today we are down to "just" 13 illegal states. The number of trackers has increased exponentially, and with that there has been a dramatic increase in demand for training, testing and support. Back then we had no social media, and communication within the UBT was very sporadic. All this has changed with Facebook, where now most of "member-to-member" interaction takes place through our Facebook Group.

We have much to be proud of. We developed a state of the art website that allows hunters to find trackers in their area. Our judges and presenters are in a great demand by our members and other organizations. We need to develop more of them! The UBT Trackfest is viewed as a premier event dedicated to education. During my presidency we had two trackfests, in New York and Oklahoma, both very successful. Thanks to Linda Bennett we have a monthly newsletter, and our video channel and its content are being developed by Logan Duke, Susanne Hamilton and Cliff Shrader. Larry Gohlke and his own secretary are busy fulfilling orders from our online store. The organization is very secure financially as we have around \$33,000 in the bank. Mind you, this has not happened overnight and took a lot of hard work by many.

Continued on Page 5

Survey Results

UBT June 2018

Andy Bensing

100 members reported their tracking results to our new online survey. Of the 100 responses 90 reported tracking on leash and 6 reported tracking off leash. Four trackers reported that they track both on and off leash. Respondents reported receiving 5,916 phone calls for assistance and taking a total of 2,762 tracking calls. The average age of the track for all respondents was 12.7 hours old. Below is the tally for recovered game put on the tailgate by members who responded to the survey.

1227 Whitetail deer
 0 Mule deer
 2 Elk
 16 Hogs
 28 Bear
 4 coyotes
 0 Bobcats
 4 Squirrels
 1 other, not specified

Please keep in mind that this is not a scientific poll. Most respondents do not keep detailed records and the above information demonstrates the level of effort and service that respondents contribute to the hunting community more than anything else.

Events

TRACKFEST 2019?

Our search for a site for Trackfest 2019 continues. If you think that you know of a perfect site and you are willing to be a local coordinator, **get in touch with Jerry Gregston jerrygregston@yahoo.com ASAP.** We have sev-eral serious proposals already but would like to give everybody an opportunity to submit theirs.

TLGDA Fun Day

Fun Events & UBT Testing

Saturday, June 30, 2018

Bay City, TX

Contact: Kenny Wall 281-844-0969

If you have an event coming up, please let us know! We will be glad to promote any UBT sanctioned event.

Get the Puppy!

UBT June 2018

Al Sherman

Jumpin' Jack Flash died in May of 2016. He was 14 and the kind of dog you think about every day for the rest of your life. He was the best bloodtracker I've ever seen. For a handler, walking behind him in the woods was spiritual. He was just gifted.

I knew I would face the nightmare of being a "One-dog-only-guy:" A tracking season without a dog. I was buoyed by the thought that I was retired now and my next dog would get a lot more work than all the previous ones combined. I did my homework and found the right breeder with the perfect cross, and got on the list. The wait would be almost a year.



Val with Claire after a chemo session

Our new Catahoula pup was finally due in February of 2017. In January Claire was diagnosed with breast cancer.

My analogy for a cancer diagnosis is this: One minute you're sitting in your most comfortable chair getting ready to enjoy watching your favorite show on TV. In an instant you're getting strapped into the

scariest roller coaster in the world. You've never been on the ride. You didn't know you were going on the ride. You can't get off the ride until the ride is over. It's just a crazy stressful time. Certainly the most stress we've ever faced as a couple.

We're dog people. Not just tracking dogs. All dogs. We just love dogs. We had three at the time but hadn't had a new pup in about 10 years. Prior to the cancer diagnosis the new pup was all we talked about. We were very excited. Me because: my new blood-tracker. Claire because: our new puppy.

Facing a year of chemo and radiation I immediately said, "We can't possibly get the puppy." Claire reluctantly agreed. Then the strangest, unexpected thing happened. Every single doctor and every single nurse and every single counselor of any kind said "GET THE PUPPY!"

He was born on February 14th and Claire named him Valentino. We were scheduled to pick him up in Texas



Continued on Page 5

at 8 weeks old. We wanted to start training and socializing as soon as possible. I wanted to get him on blood. We had to delay a week due to Claire's physical reaction to the poison that was killing the cancer. Val did the 2 hour flight asleep in Claire's lap.

I jumped right in to puppy school, basic obedience, socialization trips to Tractor Supply, and Home Depot. We took him everywhere (including four-hour chemo sessions) and showed him everything. We started tracking.

While all of this was going on something happened. During the most stressful time of both of our lives we had a purpose. A distraction. A new family member to love. The most amazing part was that even as a baby, with the attention span of a gnat, Val clearly sensed that Claire needed him. Every minute that I

wasn't training him he spent with Claire. He became "Chemo Dog."

He's 16 months old now and we couldn't be more crazy about him. He recovered his first deer at 7 months. He had the best rookie tracking season of any dog I've ever had by far. He passed his UBT2 in April at Trackfest.

Val is clearly my guy and a wonderful bloodtracker with huge potential to get even better. No matter what happens he'll always be "Chemo Dog."

Claire is cancer free and we're off the roller coaster. We got very lucky. I pray that none of you ever end up experiencing this... But if it happens... GET THE PUPPY!

President's Message, Continued

As of June 21, 2018, we have 440 members in 45 American states, Canadian provinces and Europe. The state with most members is Michigan (43), then NY (37) and TX (34). With members being so spread out here comes another challenge as members are not being able to get together with other trackers on a regular basis.

There is a lot of enthusiasm and support for UBT amongst members. I won't forget a phone call I received from a friend who attended his first trackfest this year. From now on he is not going to miss any future trackfests as it was such a great event, he made new friends and learned a great deal.

Admittedly, there have been some disappointments

in the last two years and some unfinished business, mainly due to the lack of time on my part. I was hoping to publish a UBT book with stories from our own trackers. I talked about it at Trackfest 2018, and I have not even been able to start it.

With a healthy treasury we should be able to hire professional services for certain projects, which will have to be prioritized, approved and supervised. If you have suggestions about how to improve UBT and support its mission, you can contact any of the board members. No doubt, a new president is going to bring a new vision for the future and have his/her own priorities. I wish the new president good luck and much success!

From the Director of Testing

Andy Bensing

UBT June 2018

At the last Board meeting the UBT Board of Directors updated the Test Policy and Procedures. Attached is the new and current document. The only change made was to fees. To encourage people to join our membership the fees have been changed to add an additional \$15 to each test for non-members. It all is in the new document that I have attached but here is the new schedule for your convenience.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Aptitude Assessment (AA) – no charge

UBT I - \$50.00

UBT II - \$75.00

UBT III - \$100.00

NON-MEMBERS

AA – no charge

UBT I - \$65.00

UBT II - \$90.00

UBT III - \$115.00

Also a reminder that although test fees when conducting individual, non-even or group, tests can be waived for UBT members at the discretion of the judge, Test Fees cannot be waived for non-members.

TEST FEES

Individual Testing – The judge will collect the standard test fee for each test conducted. Judges may, at their discretion, waive the test fee for a UBT member(s). Judges shall not waive the test fee for a non-UBT member(s). Test fees and paperwork will be remitted to UBT by the Judge (see also "Instructions to Judges"). Current membership dues or an acceptable membership application with payment must be submitted prior to testing to be considered a UBT member.

UBT June 2018

Welcome New Members!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome new members who have joined since April 1, 2018:

Cecilia	Steel	Christoval	TX	ceciliasteel@gmail.com
Chris	Brain	Little Rock	AR	chris@arkansassunsolutions.com
Ralph	Wilson	Crawford	CO	wilsongamefarm3681@gmail.com
Scott	Gillespie	Wellington	CO	scott@pvfpinc.com
Christopher	Brown	Mechanicsville	MD	ctbtodd1984@yahoo.com
Daniel	Cheesman	Bridgeton	NJ	dnjcheesman@icloud.com
Janice	Altizio	Hopewell Junction	NY	JanAltz@gmail.com
Trudy	Garvey	Brookville	PA	ruffworldtraining@gmail.com
Justin	Douglas	Weare	NH	DouglasIncNH@aol.com
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Edward	Richardson	Elburn	IL	ed@rell.com
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Larry	Matthews	Kennebunk	ME	larrymatt870@gmail.com
Tom	Snyder	Hancock	MI	tpsnyder@mtu.edu
John	Reyna	Damon	TX	Jreyna920@hotmail.com
Amanda	Moran	Stanton	MI	moranhightech@yahoo.com
Jack	Dix	Cropseyville	NY	jdix.vtmaple@gmail.com
James	Moeller	Alto	NM	butchrr@yahoo.com
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Dale	Hatfield	New Straitsville	OH	rawhidelandservice@gmail.com
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Jennifer	Powers	Ludington	MI	jensemail0117@gmail.com
Kyle	Meier	PIERRE, SD	SD	kyle_meier@hotmail.com

Welcome New Board Member Jerry Gregston!

UBT June 2018

Jolanta Jeanneney

We'd like to congratulate Jerry Gregston on becoming a new member of the UBT Board of Directors! We have been extremely impressed by his organizational and people skills, resourcefulness, initiative, and his commitment to tracking dogs and the UBT. He proved himself as a host of Trackfest 2018 in Oklahoma, and the feedback we have received was outstanding. He is going to be a co-coordinator for our Trackfest 2019. We are really lucky to have him! Welcome aboard Jerry! I asked him to write a short bio, and here it is:

"Okie born and Okie bred, and when I die I'll be Okie dead! That pretty much sums it up! I was born in OKC many (many) years ago, and have lived in Duncan all my life with the exception of stints away at college and Seminary. I graduated from Duncan High School in 1970, from Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts in 1974, and from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in 1977 with a Masters in Music.

I married my childhood sweetheart, Tana, and we have 3 wonderful children, 9 grandchildren, 3 "bonus" grandchildren which is what you get when grandchildren get married, and one sassy great grandchild. All of our children have returned to Duncan after college, so we are blessed to have everyone here, although it can be hectic at times for Grampy and Nanny to keep up with all the activities, ball games, etc!

I served full time as Minister of Music at Duncan's First Baptist Church for 26 years following school, and after retiring there, spent a short while running a small company and then in real estate. Now, I have finally found what I am best at-retirement!

Tracking has become my passion over the last several years, and when tracking became legal in OK, that fueled the fire. I truly enjoy working and training with my two WHDs, Cletus and Andi, being involved with hunter and tracking education, helping hunters find their trophies, and attending tracking workshops and testing have quickly become some of my very favorite things to do.

I am very excited for the opportunity to join the UBT Board! When I approached Tana, with this development, she immediately gave me her totally supportive "go for it" and I humbly accepted the invitation. I have made some great friends in and around UBT, and I look forward to this new chapter in my life. I feel like I can make a contribution, and I am looking forward to the journey.

Jerry Gregston"



UBT Leaders for 2018

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United Blood Trackers is dedicated to promoting resource conservation through the use of trained tracking dogs in the ethical recovery of big game. We support recovery efforts afield, the education of hunters, the training and testing of dog handlers and their dogs, and legislative efforts to promote blood tracking

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