

UBT Trails & Tales

Newsletter of the United Blood Trackers



March, 2018 Volume 1 Issue 3

Pennsylvania Goes Legal!

16 years ago, before the UBT even existed; efforts began for legalization here in PA. It's been a long road but after having 8 bills introduced over that time, our current bill, SB135, has finally passed. PA will be tracking in the fall! There are a lot of people and organizations over the years that deserve thanks and the UBT is certainly one of them. The backing of a national blood tracking organization helped lend credibility to our arguments; especially in the beginning years ago before blood tracking was as popular as it is today. Thank you to everyone and especially the UBT.

The new law in PA is quite simple and that's what we were shooting for from the start. Here is the text from the new law:

"It is legal to make use of a leashed tracking dog to track a white-tailed deer, bear or elk in an attempt to recover an animal which has been legally killed or wounded during any open season for white-tailed deer, bear or elk."

No special license is required.

No notification is required.

The hunter must simply follow the same hunting regulations that he would normally follow if tracking the animal without a dog.

The hunter can dispatch with the weapon of the season during legal hunting hours.

Tracking is allowed at night but no dispatch by



hunter at night.

The best part of the new law for me is that now instead of my closest call being a minimum of 120 miles round trip to MD, DE or NJ, my closest call is right out my front door.

See you in the woods,

Andy Bensing

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Bulletin Board

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Please participate in our on-line survey! Log in to your account on the UBT Website, and select Take Tracker Survey. Information gleaned will be published once we have surveys complete.

Results from testing at the Big Blowout Weekend

Held at the Dewey Willis Wildlife Management Area, central Louisiana

Congratulations to the following UBT tested dogs:

UBT 1

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Rowdy | 1-year-old Labrador owned by Janet Reich, trained & handled by Nancy Eldridge |
| Cat | 10-month-old Catahoula Cur owned by Janet Reich, trained & handled by Nancy Eldridge |
| Mazey | 1-year-old Labrador owned by Janet Reich, trained & handled by Nancy Eldridge |
| Elvis | 2-year-old bloodhound owned by Janet Reich, trained & handled by Nancy Eldridge |

UBT 2

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Kate | 3-year-old Labrador owned by Janet Reich, trained & handled by Nancy Eldridge |
| Jax | 2-year-old Labrador owned by Joseph Gordon, Little Rock AK, trained & handled by Nancy Eldridge |

UBT TRACKFEST 2018

April 13-15, 2018, EDMOND, OK

United Blood Trackers is holding a three day **Blood Tracking Workshop on April 13-15, 2018**, at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building at Arcadia Lake in Edmond, OK, which is on the north edge of Oklahoma City. This workshop is for both beginning and advanced handlers, as well as anyone else interested in learning more about the use of tracking dogs for the recovery of wounded big game.

United Blood Trackers will offer evaluations of tracking dogs at UBT-I, UBT-II, and UBT-III levels on Friday, April 13, 2018. To sign up and for more information about evaluation requirements go to our website www.unitedbloodtrackers.org. If you would like to enter a dog in any of the offered tests, preregistration is required, and you can register online.

On Saturday, April 14, we will be holding the popular Hit Site Evaluation Seminar. This simulation, with the use of a roadkill deer, will focus on determining where you have hit the deer, reading sign at the hit site as well as reading sign along the trail in order to develop the proper strategy for tracking that particular animal with or without a dog.

On Sunday, April 15, we will have a presentation on Canine First Aid in the Field.

Other topics that will be covered in this seminar are:

- * How to interview hunters before taking the call
- * The nature of scent
- * European tracking techniques
- * On lead and off lead tracking
- * The handler's relationship with a tracking dog
- * Equipment- what is in my tracking bag?
- * Line handling
- * GPS use and Phone Apps
- * Early conditioning of tracking dogs
- * Addressing problems in training and tracking

Demonstrations in the field will be focused on reading a tracking dog and improving handling skills.

The workshop instructors will be UBT Judges Andy Bensing (PA), Cheri Faust (WI), Larry Gohlke (WI), Jerry Gregston (OK), Cliff Shrader (LA) and other experts in the field.

Keynote speakers will be UBT Judge JJ Scarborough (MS) and Marianne Jacobs(Luxembourg)

Upcoming Events

UBT Mar. 2018

UBT Trackfest 2018 Edmond, OK

April 13—15, 2018

Seminar & Testing

Contact: Jerry Gregston Jerry.Gregston@yahoo.com

Texas Lacy Game Dog Assn. Fun Day Lampasas, TX

April 28, 2018

UBT Testing available

Contact: Kenny Wall

3rd Annual Alabama Blood Trailing Seminar Greensboro, AL

Saturday, May 5, 2018 7:30 AM—4 PM

Contact Paul Couget: PCouget@gmail.com

Jagdterrier Club Aberdeen, SD

June 8—10, 2018

Seminar & Testing

Contact: Derek Efraimson 605-228-9294 DEfraimson81@gmail.com

Texas Lacy Game Dog Assn. Fun Day Bay City, TX

June 30, 2018

UBT Testing available

Contact: Kenny Wall

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

Training Well

In the world of tracking dogs, replete with certifications and accreditations; in this realm of blood-n-guts and blue ribbons, we have learned a few very interesting things from dogs.

Training Dogs. Dogs need some basic parameters to be fruitful and beneficial in our quest to find their quarry. Some things we've learned:

Patience. If you feel the need to hurry things along, you're doomed from the start. "*Dogs learn in threes and sevens,*" and old-time pre E-collar dog trainer icon once told me. Some dogs take three sessions to learn a skill, others take seven he explained. It is true with all of the different breeds we see tracking today. We've had many a seven-session dog, thoroughly enjoying the three-session dogs that come our way. Patience is key to keeping ourselves on track, on target to getting our dogs to an expected level.

Reality. Let us be real with our expectations. Let's not expect or demand a dog to take an advanced track at four months old. Be realistic. Grandiose expectations lead to monumental disappointments. The goal of a great tracking dog is best achieved by painstaking hard work, not an accelerated training regimen.

Discipline. Keeping to a program can be a challenge to the uninitiated. A basic daily routine is required to achieve the upper level results—being at the top of the heap takes discipline. Be diligent.

Faith. Keep the faith, the dog will turn out. Staying a well laid out course will lead to great accomplishments. If everything is sound in your training methods and intensity, you will have success, guaranteed. And with a little help from above, you can get there in fine fashion.

Wisdom. Knowing when you're licked — that point where you just can't advance is the key to wisdom. Wisdom in seeking others' advice, looking to change a routine or method is the culmination of learning from the dogs as well. You can't know it all — even if you're an old timer yourself. Try different methods if necessary and/or seek the advice of others. Wisdom is shown in the time you waste — which is little if you're on track.

The thrill of your dog digging out a tough track, of coming up with the find when you thought it couldn't be done — these are what we train for, the results of all our hard work. So is the journey we travel along the way, learning from ourselves... and the dogs.

Train well.

Adapted from an article by Steve Anker, Long Island NY

If you are promoting UBT and tracking at an event, please send a photo!

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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