



## **JHPTS - VTAI Tracking Course Summary**

**Location:** Camp Howard, Sandy, Oregon

**Date:** 0907 – 0909 / 2018

**Instructors:** Lead Anthony Lorange, Instructor Kathy Decker, Assistant instructor Teddy Rhoads

**Students:** 16 total / 8 Novice (7 new and one boarding for basic), 6 Basic (with one whose certification had lapsed) 1 Apprentice and 1 Journeyman.

**Setting:** This training was conducted in an organizational church camp, established in 1953 within a tree farm. The classroom was in a structure built for that purpose. This building was surrounded by several cabins providing separate lodging for female and male students. Meals were provided at the camp mess hall within easy walking distance. The training area, located approximately ¼ mile from the classroom, was just north of the camp's main entrance.

**Class / Field Training:** After the classroom introductions, the basic JHPTS power point presentation and Remy Newcombe's film "Drawing the Track", the Novice, Basic, Apprentice and Journeyman students walked to the start of the sign lines. The beginning prints of the lines were on an embankment, parallel to the Camp's main access road. The novice and basic students were separated into teams, assigned a sign line, monitored as they filled out their foot print cards and started moving their sign lines.

(Apprentice) Ron Glaus, (Journeyman) Gary Burgess and (Basic 2) Anthony Quinones were briefed on a scenario and shown the PLS. The scenario was basically that two persons parked a vehicle along the main road, got out and walked into the adjacent tree line. Their paths lead to a picnic table at a man-made pond. They then walked back to the main road via an unimproved service road. Then back to the PLS, where the vehicle was driven away.

**Specific Modules covered:** Novice – BT4, BT3, BT1 and BT2 / Basic – BT7, BT6, BT8 and BT11 / Apprentice – AT4, AT5 and AT8 / Journeyman – JT8, JT11 and JT18.

**Weather:** Mild late summer weather pattern for the Oregon Cascades' western slope. Temperature was in the upper 70s during the day and upper 50s during the night. The sky was partially cloudy for most of the weekend. It was overcast Saturday morning with a heavy mist that lasted until mid-morning. The mist had little effect on the sign lines due to thick forest canopy. No appreciable wind.

**Terrain:** Even terrain with a gradual upward slope near the end of the sign lines. Ground cover consisted of fir and maple leaf duff with patches of creeping broad leaf ground cover, mosses and clover. Besides the fir and maple trees, the dominate plant was sword fern. Where the sun penetrated the canopy there were bracken ferns and mature salmon berries. Due to several months of limited precipitation the ground surface was dry and resilient. There was the occasional moss laden log and stump.

**Additional:** Novice 3, Michael Black was boarded by Kathy Decker, Gary Burgess and I. Which he passed and the next day presented his basic certification document and rocker.



## **TRACKING STEP BY STEP... JOEL HARDIN PROFESSIONAL TRACKING SERVICES**

225 Mill Road, Stites, Idaho 83552 telephone 208-926-4390 Email: Joel@jhardin-inc.com

It was requested by Jo Peterson that I observe/ assess Kevin Swem, as his basic certification had lapsed. At the conclusion of training I had no concerns in recommending that he be reinstated as a basic tracker at a training level of 2.

Anthony Lorange  
Journeyman  
Lead Instructor