



COMMON SCENTS

July/August, 1993
Vol. 17., No. 4



Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

TENTATIVE DATES TO REMEMBER

T.E.D. Follow-Up 3
Saturday, August 14, 1993

Certification Match/Tracklayer Certification/Annual Picnic
Sunday, September 26, 1993

Tracking Test
Sunday, November 7, 1993

OFFICERS

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Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

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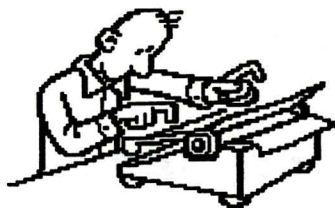


Skimmer, BARBARA DRESSEL's Cocker Spaniel, was HIT at Greenwich KC with a 196 in Open B. She then went to Canada, where she got her CD with a 197 and 195 for second places and a 196.5 for a first place and HIT.

LINDA MCMANEMY's **Jessie** placed 7th in the Delaney System ratings for Collies.

HOPE MEAKER's Flat Coated Retrievers have been having a great spring. **Pega** took a 4 point major at Bucks by going BW. Pega and **Derby** were Group 1 Brace at Plainfield & Kingston KC in Canada. Also in at Kingston, Pega was BW and Derby got 2 thirds and a fourth in Utility and a 4th in Open B while pregnant.

Note - Send your news to Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833



From the President's Desk:

The Weather

Frankly, the less said about the subject the better. This has been the worst summer for tracking ever since I've been involved. We had to cancel the second follow-up because of the intense heat, and it looks as though the third one won't be very beneficial unless we get a lot of rain (not now in the forecast) in the next week or so. Hunterdon County, where the park is located, seems to have been forgotten by the Rainmakers, so the grass is parched.

I urge that people who are not prepping for a test lay off training until conditions improve. Dogs should not be worked in extreme heat. Additionally, browned off grass doesn't hold enough scent for a beginning dog, and no dog is going to enjoy putting his face in "porcupine quills" or getting a nose full of dust. The dog doesn't care whether he gets his TD this year or next. He tracks because it's fun. Let's keep in that way.

The Match and "Picnic"

A flier for the September 26 certification match is enclosed. Some changes have been made from last year. In the first place, this is an unsanctioned, fun match. Lenape members will be given first crack at the slots, followed by TED attendees, followed by all others. We will be having two teams and will in essence be holding two matches, one following the other (but a dog can't be in both!) Anyone who wants to run a dog and lay track can be a tracklayer for the other team. We are also looking for one or two members to be assistant judges with Salle Crooks. Again, you could run on the other team. Please note that although we aren't going through the AKC paperwork required for a sanctioned match, the tracks themselves will be regulation and aimed at dogs ready to enter a TD test, i.e., 440 to 500 yards, 30 minutes to 2 hours old, and 3 to 5 turns.

A brief meeting will be held during the after-match "picnic" for the purpose of appointing the Nominating Committee. And if any member wants to become a certified tracklayer, send in the form so we can make plans.

TDI

Recently Richard Knapp, AKC Tracking Judge and President of the Tracking Club of Central Florida, contacted Lenape asking for support of a proposal he has presented to AKC regarding an intermediate tracking degree (TDI). The Board agreed that many of his ideas are sound and will advise Mr. Knapp of our tentative support, but we want to get input from the members before we make any move to contact AKC.

There is talk about requiring certification to enter a TDX test. Very few dogs who enter TDX tests are passing, and with the size of the alternate lists, it is generally agreed that something has to be done. One of the problems with TDX certifications is that judges are not going to be too enthusiastic about doing them because of the amount of land needed, the need for cross tracklayers, and the amount of time required to age a track.

Richard Knapp is championing another plan, whereby dogs must earn an intermediate title prior to be admitted to a TDX test. Some of the requirements are:

- 550 to 750 yards
- aged 1.5 to 2.5 hours
- a total of 4 to 7 turns
- one starting flag which indicates within 90° the direction of the first leg
- angle between tracklayer's approach and handler's approach less than 45°.
- articles as in current TDX rules
- one, two or three obstacles, as in current TDX rules
- no restarts allowed
- tracks can go closer to perimeters of the fields, so a TDI test could fit on a TD size field

If anyone has any strong feelings on this, please let me know by September 1 (908) 236-2423. The Board will take member comments into consideration before taking any action. (Incidentally, Mr. Knapp has already received the objection that TDI is a therapy dog title. He claims it is only a temporary name which somebody from AKC assigned to it).

Happy Tracking.

John Etchells

Observations by James Edwards Clark

Reprinted from Tampa Dog Training Club's *Paddy Paws*
via Princeton Dog Training Club's *Dog Tails*, June, 1984

A licensed handler was talking recently about a client that has been very successful in breeding consistently good dogs ... "and the best part about her," he said, "is that she still has a husband, her kids are well fed, and her house is clean." A strange thing to comment on ... perhaps, or is it?

There are a number of dog people who fall so completely off the deep end that they are "Doggy" to the exclusion of all else. They carry their dogs and their dog problems all the way and usually manage to run them into the ground.

Some of the most successful and happiest breeders and exhibitors in this country are well-rounded people. They have an interest in a great many things, and the sport of dogs has managed to take its proper place in their lives. As a result, they are much healthier dog people.

An exhibitor whose all consuming interest is dogs and whose friends are 100% dog persons naturally becomes involved in all the unpleasant gossip and intrigue that goes with any competitive sport. Because they have no other interest, the failure to win at a show is a life and death situation, and defeat is enlarged all out of proportion. They therefore have to find an out for defeat and either the judge is crooked or the show is fixed or all of the other dogs were dyed - to make this defeat justifiable. If these persons had not put all of their eggs in one basket - and had won a tennis match the day before, or just watched their prized azaleas bloom into the best on the block, or had watched their son toss his little league game, or if the time spent volunteering at the hospital was rewarding - perhaps they would return dog shows to their proper place as a sport and know that the bitch that beat them was a shade better.



It is even more important for the breeder to have a change of scenery and a change of thought. Persons that spend 24 hours a day and seven days a week in the midst of their dogs are more susceptible to the dreaded disease "Kennel Blindness" than is the person whose interest is varied. Because the latter person's dogs share the limelight with their geraniums, their children, their tennis, or their volunteer programs, it is easier for them to look at a puppy objectively and realize that while he is a beautiful charmer, he is not a world beater.



Least important, but certainly a consideration, is that fact that people that put the sport of dogs into its proper place are better ambassadors than those who are too doggie. They are able to talk sensibly about something other than dogs and do have an interest in the local PTA or Opera Society. Their dog talk is saved for the off evening when they are with dog people and therefore cannot afford gossipy chatter but instead devote this time to serious and educational conversation about dogs. It makes for a pleasant interlude.

Look around you ... and notice that a high percentage of the truly charming and respected and successful dog persons today are those that raise and show dogs as part of a full and useful life rather than to the exclusion of all else.

Judges in the Northeast Who Can Certify - (as of 1/1/93)

Not all dogs are going to be ready to certify at our match on September 26. If anyone wants to certify privately, any AKC Tracking judge, including provisionals, can provide the necessary statements after witnessing a dog track. The following are in the AKC's 1993 list of judges.

Carole Artim	Lenhartsville, PA	215-756-6211
Dana Avison.....	Bondville, VT.....	802-297-2551
Carole Bolan	Dunstable, MA.....	617-649-6338
Esther Bressler	Millmont, PA.....	717-922-1139
Harry Broderson.....	Basking Ridge, NJ	908-766-5180
Larry Brown.....	Owings, MD.....	301-855-7477
Michael Clemens.....	Albany, NY	518-456-3429
Merrill Cohen.....	Pikesville, MD.....	410-653-8060
Beatrice Connelly.....	Taneytown, MD	410-756-2929
Salle Crooks.....	Beaver Dams, NY	607-535-9838
Suzanne Dolbin	Enola, PA.....	717-732-5298
Miles Garrod.....	Milford, NH	603-673-2697
Joyce Geier.....	Vergennes, VT.....	505-867-4705
James Hanson	Raymond, ME.....	207-892-7187
Marie Huffman.....	Mt. Airy, MD	301-865-0523
Beverly Johnson.....	Marianna, PA	412-267-3327
Kathleen Kleisler.....	Babylon, NY	516-587-2899
Thomas Knott	Ellicott City, MD.....	410-465-6789
Randie Meyer.....	Amhearst, NH.....	603-673-6245
Hazel Moseley.....	Bowie, MD.....	301-464-0302
Robert Parsons.....	Boxborough, MA.....	617-263-7156
Ruth Ridings.....	Wakefield, MA	617-245-6604
Dee Dee Rose	Manakin-Sabot, VA.....	804-784-4125
Donna Thompson	Cross Junction, VA.....	703-888-4124
Judy Thompson.....	Pittsburgh, PA.....	412-882-2627
Arthur Twiss.....	Reading, MA	617-944-5408
Judith Wells	Carthage, NY	315-493-1349

FROM THE MAILBAG



Hudson Valley Tracking Club is holding a Tracklaying Seminar by Mike Clemens on Sunday, October 3 in Mohonk Fields, New Paltz, NY. Price is \$20.00. FMI: Gail Fowler - (215) 495-5233.

Ramapo Kennel Club presents a "Don't Shoot the Dog" Seminar with Karen Pryor and Gary Wilkes. This program on positive reinforcement will be held on October 30-31 in the Newark Airport Holiday Inn, and the price is \$100. FMI: Joanne Silver - (201) 444-0089 (days).

How Old Is The Dog Food You Are Feeding Your Dog?

by Joy Rabins

reprinted from the Recall Bulletin via the Santa Clara DTC newsletter *WAGGIN' Tales*
via Palo Alto Foothills Tracking Assn. *Gone Trackin'* August, 1993

Recently when a friend thought she may have purchased rancid dog food, she questioned her local discount pet food retailer about the manufacture date of the food they were selling. After several phone calls to the distributor, she and the retailer began pulling sacks of outdated dog food off the shelves when they discovered that they were selling dog food manufactured more than two years ago!

I called the manufacturer of seven of the more popular dog foods to be educated in how to read their manufacture code so as to assure myself that the food I am purchasing is fresh. Here is the information they provided:



- NEUTRO:** Phone 1-800-833-5330. Their food is considered fresh for 9 - 12 months after it is manufactured. An example of the code on the bag reads MFG on 6-24-92 23:38. This bag was made on June 24, 1992
- IAMS:** Phone 1-800-525-4267. Their food is considered fresh for 1 year after it is manufactured. An example of the code on the bag reads 1407992A3BO. This bag was made on the 14th day of the 7th month in the year 1992.
- SCIENCE DIET:** Phone 1-800-445-5777. Their food is considered fresh for 1 year after it is manufactured. An example of the code on the bag reads HC251. The letter "H" represents the year which is 92. The letter "I" will be 93, "J" will be 94 and so on. The letter "C" represents the month of the year. "C" is March, "D" is April, "E" is May and so on. 25 represents the day of the month. "1" represents the shift it was made on.
- NATURE'S RECIPE:** Their food is considered fresh for 1 year after it is manufactured. An example of the code on the bag reads 290792C08G. This bag was made on the 29th day of the 7th month in 1992.
- PURINA:** Phone 800-PRO-PLAN. Food good for 1 year. Their bag reads "Best when used by Jun 28 93". This bag was probably made around June 28, 1992.
- BREEDER'S CHOICE:** Phone 800-255-4AVO. Their food is fresh for 6 - 9 months. Their bag code reads 16392. They use the Julian calendar. This bag was made on the 163rd day of 1992, or around June 11, 1992.

WARNING

A recent article in the *ASBURY PARK PRESS* discusses the effect of heat on dogs. Dogs cannot effectively dissipate their body heat when the temperature gets much over 85 degrees. They advise that dog trainers should train only during the cooler hours, and only when the temperature is below 85.

A Tracking Judge Talks

Reprinted from Palo Alto Foothills Tracking Assn. *Gone Trackin'*, January, 1993

A tracking judge's (name withheld) article in his club's newsletter stated the following:

A JUDGE'S JUDGMENT

"In the last issue I told you about a Basset Hound that passed the TD at the Club's last TD Test. The dog did a great track but overshot the glove without indicating it. The handler saw the glove and stopped and engage(d) in some guiding of the dog until the dog found the glove. Why this dog was passed might be interesting or educational to some, or provide ammunition for others. As one of the judges, I passed the dog. My co-judge said nothing, thus passing it also. I passed the dog because both the dog and handler did such a great job on the track, and the dog did lead the handler to the glove and the handler found the glove. This is old school thinking, pre 1990 rule changes.

"By strict rules interpretation, though, I was wrong to pass the dog. The dog did not clearly indicate the glove and the handler had to guide the dog to it. The judges knew this, spectators knew it, and the exhibitor admitted it. If any other judge failed this team, I would support that judge 100% for doing so. While I may have been wrong to pass the dog, I think I might have been correct to pass the team. The title should represent the purpose of our sport, and if I were ever lost, I would love to have this tracking team try to find me in lieu of some others that muddle their way through a test. Judging is all about judgment, and that can result in some confusion which I contributed to. Going strictly by the rules eliminates a lot of confusion, but can diminish the sport and cause us to forget the purpose of the sport.

"What should we do? I don't know. Maybe just enjoy ourselves."

The above article, with a by-line, was printed in a club's newsletter; reprinted in the Indian Nations Tracking Club Newsletter in 1992. It is reprinted in our newsletter to stimulate your thoughts, especially those of PAFTA members who are tracking judges. At the outset one wonders what caused the person to initiate the article for publication.

Section 23, AKC Tracking Regulations is specific and states in part: "... The dog must follow the track and clearly indicate or retrieve the article in a Tracking Test/TD or clearly indicate or retrieve the second, third and fourth article in a /Tracking Test/TDX." It also stated, "Judges must never pass a dog which has not met the minimum requirements of following the test track unaided and finding the article(s). ... In order for the dog to pass in a Tracking Test/TD, the article must be presented to the Judges when the track is completed..."

The judge admits that he "may have been wrong to pass the dog, I think I might have been correct to pass the team." The purpose of the AKC tracking test, as stated at the beginning of the regulation, "is to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind." The dog is being tested. "Team" is not mentioned.

In this case, with the admissions in the article and the clearness of the regulation, it appears that someone was fortunate to attain the TD. In our area there saw a St. Bernard that did an excellent TD track but failed same because handler wasn't alert to the dog's recognition of the glove. When questioned by the Judges, the handler stated he thought the dog was sniffing a cattle "plop" (test was on a cattle ranch and there were many), and therefore ignored the dog's signal at the end of the track as just a distraction and ordered the dog to continue tracking.



A tracking judge has to make many judgmental and/or common sense calls, not covered by regulations(s), in preparation for and during a tracking test. Conversely, there are established regulations(s) which do require strict compliance before the attainment of a degree. When in a position of responsibility one must, on occasion, make decisions which are against his/her better judgment but are in accordance with regulation(s) established by an higher authority (in this case AKC) in order to insure fairness to all test participants. Adherence to the established regulation(s) by all will keep titles attained meaningful.

I call your attention to the last two sentences of the article. What do you think?

Mario Salacone, Editor.