

COMMON SCENTS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1994

Vol. 18., No. 6

LENAPE TRACKING CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

CORRESPONDING DATES TO REMEMBER (TENTATIVE)

Nominations Meeting/Luncheon/Flag-Making Party

Saturday, February 18, 1995

Saturday, February 25, 1995 (snow date)

Tracking Experience Day

Saturday, April 22, 1995

Certification Workshop

Sunday, September 24, 1995

Tracking Test

Sunday, November 5, 1995

WHO'S WHO

OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Martha Hamil
Anna Burbank
Pat Etchells
Linda Riley

908-846-5333
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BOARD

John Etchells
Peg Forte
Hope Meaker
Pat Paulding
Dot Vail

908-236-2423
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908-454-9520
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COMMITTEES

Tracking Experience Day
Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

Linda Riley
Dot Vail
Pat Etchells



BARBARA GREENFIELD's Golden Retriever **Holly** got her TD at Burlington County (see an Open Letter, Page 2). During the same time frame, **Fancy** got her CD with legs at Morris Hills - 192.5, Philadelphia 197 (3rd), and Lower Camden - 193.

MOLLIE & PETER HEIDE's Flat-Coat **Lacy** earned her WC (Working Certificate) on November 6 in Massachusetts on her 14-month "birthday".

Skye MAC KINNON, JOANNE's Golden Retriever, also received his WC title recently.

1994 TEST RESULTS

by Pat Etchells

Our November 6, 1994, test is history. On paper, conditions looked perfect - rain earlier in the week, plotting day fair and in the 70s, and the test day in the 60s with light showers. The fields had low, uniform grassy cover. And judges Marie Huffman and Phil Gallagher plotted relatively uncomplicated tracks of equal difficulty. It was hard to identify the obvious alternate track, because to us all the tracks looked great. Unfortunately 71 percent of the dogs' noses did not agree with our human assessment of the situation...

The first dog failed on John's track in the upper left field. A Bearded Collie running on Joanne's track in the school field did a nice job, had a very hard time finding the last leg (which ironically headed toward a "wrong way" sign in the parking lot) but persevered and found the glove. The third dog running in one of our new Schooley's Mountain fields failed on Dot's first track. Then an English Cocker, who had learned to track and certified in Hawaii, labored long and hard and successfully finished my track. The final two dogs failed on Dot's and Peg's tracks. And the dog attempting to certify on the spare track did not.

Back for lunch. Priscilla Gabosch organized a fantastic spread, with donations from Gail Benson, Pat Blake, Anna Burbank, John Etchells, Barbara Greenfield, Mollie Heide, Rose Kruser, Joanne MacKinnon, Hope Meaker, Dot Vail, and Martha Windisch. And Peg Forte made a big contribution by housing the judges and taking the pictures of the successful teams. A big thanks to everyone who helped. Without a core of working members, this test could never have been pulled off so successfully.



PASSING DOGS

Edgewater Prospero
English Cocker

C. Danae Steele & Christine Uebelein

Ch Britannia Peppermint Patty, CD
Bearded Collie

Antonia H. Tuck & Michele Ritter



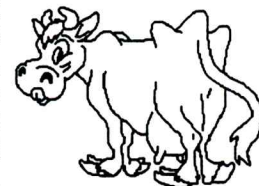
AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL LENAPE TRACKING CLUB MEMBERS

by Barbara Greenfield

I would like to thank all the Club members who worked so hard on the Tracking Experience Day last April. The instructions were very clear and interesting. Holly and I were very interested in working to get the "T". We were lucky to have Gail Benson and Frisker for tracking buddies. We spent a lot of time looking for fields large enough for our always lengthening tracks.

Holly had to work through some pretty tough problems, such as a large flock of geese eating all of the bait and messing the track. One day after Gail had set a beautiful track and she had just finished, a woman drove up, opened her van door, and six large Collies bounded out and went straight for the hot dogs. We soon had the woman round up her dogs. I put Holly on the track. With a lot of work, she got past the dog scent, and like a little trooper found the glove.

The first test Holly ran at Lenape, she found the joys of fresh deer droppings. At the second test in Lumberton, Holly for the first time in her life met an animal larger than a big dog called a COW! Right next to where the cars were parked was a paddock full of very strong smelling cows. Holly was really scared and very upset, so we stayed away from them. When we got to the track that we had drawn, I looked across the field. Guess what was there? Sure enough, another herd of cows. Holly started nice and strong, but we were headed straight for the cows. As we got closer, the cows started to move around and moo a lot. Holly said, "Oh no, I'm not going over there." So she did what any little girl would do and hid behind her Mom's legs. The judges called us back, so I thought we were finished, but they said the cows were unfair and gave her the alternate track. Holly ran the track (not without giving me an anxious moment or two), and we passed.



Holly has a good nose, and by attending TED plus follow-up days, along with a dedicated tracking buddy, we did it all in seven months. Thank you - all of you - for your great support.

AN IDEA ABOUT A "TRADING TRACKS" SECTION FOR THE NEWSLETTER

by Martha Windisch

This past November, Tawny and I were running a track that I had put down about three hours prior. As she searched for the first turn, I was thinking about the infrequency that we run blind tracks. I easily knew when she had found the new direction, since I was my own tracklayer, so I continued to think about the doubts that I have while running a blind track due to lack of blind track experience.

My lack of experience on blind tracks is mostly due to where I live. Here in the Pinelands there are many large areas on which to track; however, I don't live close enough to anyone who tracks on a consistent basis. When I do decide to contact people in order to find someone interested in planning a tracking day, it tends to take a lot of phone calls to find those who may be interested. Furthermore, it is hard to find someone interested who is also available on the same dates. My guess is that there are probably others in the club who are in the same situation.

Because of this, I came up with an idea (this idea struck me just as Tawny headed down the last leg, pounced on a leaf and a piece of trash, sniffed a groundhog hole, and then grabbed the glove!). The idea is to provide a section in the newsletter for club members to announce to other club members an "in advance" date, time, and place that they will set aside for tracking. The announcement would be an invitation to other club members to join in (a maximum number of participants could be specified). The title for this newsletter section could be "THE TRACK TRADER."

I believe this would be extremely beneficial to club members, beginner and advanced alike. Beginners could learn much by tracking with those more experienced, and those more experienced, along with beginners, would benefit from having access to a greater number of blind tracks, various tracking grounds, a greater variety of people to lay their tracks and to work with, and finally, the motivation to stay involved with tracking through involvement with other club members. Club camaraderie would also be enhanced by allowing new members a chance to get involved with members who

have been involved for years (members who have been involved for years may also get the chance to track with those they have never tracked with before).

Following is an example of a possible format for the newsletter (these could be sent to me for compilation and submission to the newsletter editor).

WHO: Martha Windisch
WHERE: fields in Burlington Co. NJ (or Mercer Co. Park by Trenton, NJ)
WHEN: Sunday, January 8, time to be decided upon by those interested.
limited to 3 people besides myself.
RSVP for time and directions: 609-726-9054

(p.s. I'm really available to track on this date, so you may call if interested)

At the end of "THE TRACK TRADER" section, the due date for announcements for the next newsletter would have to be published. Also a conservative estimate of the date that the next newsletter will be "in people's hands" would have to be specified since there is no use in announcing a training date which is past by the time the newsletter arrives. *(Ed Note: The newsletter preparation target date is the first of each even month, but time must be allowed for copying and mailing).*

Well, that's my idea (by this time Tawny has retrieved the glove that I tossed for her and has taken off to check out all the groundhog holes she had missed while tracking).

If you think that this would be a valuable addition to our newsletter, or if you would be interested in actually announcing a tracking date, please contact me. I may also be contacted if you have any additions or changes to this idea.

*(Ed Note: This could be provided only as an announcement service to members wishing to network to make **personal** tracking arrangements. Meetings set up as a result of this column would **NOT** be Club events, and they would **NOT** be covered by Club insurance. Members should check with the parks or landowners before announcing any plans.)*

PENNYROYAL

(AND PERHAPS POUND FOOLISH)

reprinted from the Washington State Cocker Club *Hi Lites*, November, 1994

If you have been hanging around your local health food store lately, you may have noticed the bottles of pennyroyal. For dog owners, pennyroyal is known as a flea repellent, although the oil has a long history of various uses in human folklore medicine (aborting pregnancy in humans is one such use). Pennyroyal and fleas is actually a logical connection. As Dr. Margaret Sudekum of Michigan State University points out, the Latin name for pennyroyal is *Hedeoma pulegioides*, derived from the Latin *pulex*, which happens to mean flea.

Nevertheless, says Dr. Sudekum, pennyroyal can be toxic to both humans and dogs. She and her associates had to treat a dog whose owner had sprinkled it with pennyroyal (60 milliliters of the oil at 100 percent strength). The unfortunate dog experienced seizures, liver failure, and death. The dog was apparently exposed to an estimated 2,000 milligrams of pennyroyal oil per kilogram of body weight. Serious tissue changes have been noted in humans after ingestion of only 500 milligrams of the oil per kilogram of body weight.

With pennyroyal now available in flea shampoos, flea powders, and as a pure oil, the team headed by Dr. Sudekum advises veterinarians and owners to be aware of the possible toxic hazards that exist when these products are used.

Unfortunately, there is no antidote available to treat suspected pennyroyal toxicosis. However, Dr. Sudekum stresses that in the case of a suspected overdose, the animal should be washed thoroughly with a mild detergent and the shampooing must be repeated until no residue can be detected. Liver damage can occur rapidly (with 24 hours), so the dog must be monitored closely. Plasma or blood transfusions and medications to control seizures may also be necessary.

(Via Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine "Animal Health Newsletter," February, 1993, and reprinted from "The High Jump," Obedience Training Club of Wichita Falls, Inc.)

DOG SHOW PEOPLE

by Judy Kilgore

Reprinted from the *Dalmatian Sensation*, the newsletter of the Dalmatian Club of Greater St. Louis via Palo Alto Foothills Tracking Association *Gone Trackin'* January, 1993

Dog show people:

- Are a special breed not usually recognized by A.K.C.
- Think everyone has crates in their living rooms.
- Have messy houses. Their kennels are spotless.
- Can always find a show catalog within arm's reach.
- Drive trucks, vans and station wagons especially equipped to haul dog crates.
- Can never be reached on a weekend. They're usually at a dog show.
- Will drive 400 miles, spend \$100 on gas, \$200 on a motel room and \$150 on meals to bring home a 25-cent ribbon.
- Have lush, green beautiful backyards and have never bought a bag of fertilizer.
- Get up at 6:00 a.m. to walk the dogs, can be at ringside dressed to kill at 8:00 a.m., but have trouble getting to work on time.
- Never miss a closing date for entry fees, but pay the mortgage ten days late.
- Use dog food bags for trash bags and 30 gallon trash cans for dog food.
- Talk for hours on the phone to another dog person in a language known only to dog people.
- Have parents who think they've lost their minds.
- Have neighbors who think they're strange.
- Have doggie friends who think they're terrific.

EDIBLE TOOTHBRUSH

There is a new food available through veterinarians which removes tartar from dogs' teeth. This is a very large kibble which is crunchy chewy, so it holds its shape - instead of shatters - as the dog bites into it, then the fiber in the food rubs the tartar off the teeth.

Rather than completely switch brands, we opted to give a couple kibbles as an after-dinner treat. Not only do they wolf down their regular food and come running to beg for their kibbles, but their teeth were noticeably cleaner within a week. It probably won't prevent already needed dental work, but it should delay a recleaning.

PE