

THIRD CERTIFICATION MATCH

While some people might have called the weather on April 24th not the greatest, we know some tracking people that wouldn't agree. The wet ground and occasional drizzle made the conditions for tracking much better than the dry and hot weather we had been having lately. There were 7 entries. Five of these were trying for certification and one of the dogs with a T had a track that was considerably more difficult than a "T" track, but not quite as hard as a TDX type track.

Bill Hoops* Fargo (Alaskan Malamute) drew the first track. He had some difficulty on the second leg, but finally got past the spot and went on to finish in fine form. The second track was drawn by "Misty" and Pam Riker (Norwich Terrier) and they showed us all what a great dog a small dog can do. It was a delight to see Misty hopping over the grass clumps sniffing earnestly right to the glove. Third track was drawn by Ann Nowakowski and "Sam" (Norwegian Elkhound), they were unable to do a qualifying performance. A German Shepherd, Zvaigle II and Len Messana were next, Len came over from Long Island, unfortunately the dog did not turn the right direction at one turn. Last certifying track was another German Shepherd, Hancz handled by Carol Parkinson, they did a good job. Three of the five dogs seeking certification made it. Sixth track of the day was Sally Lacy and her Border Collie Badger. He did a super job, showing us the style in which he has passed at two Tracking Tests this Spring. He completed the five hundred yard track in just under three minutes, trotting right along, turning on the corners as if he'd been watching the track be laid.

Tim Riley and Kelly (Am. & Can TD) did a super job on their modified TDX track which included three drops and only a starting flag. Kelly was not confused by only one flag (maybe Tim was surprised) and found the three drops easily. The track went across a hilltop, down a hillside with stickers, made a second right turn, then a left turn and over a stone wall, through taller, thicker growth with some trees around, around a pond, then back over the stone wall to the last drop. The first drop was on the second leg, and the second one on a leg near the pond. Kelly's trouble came down behind the pond. Judge Art Hartzell said she went off on what was probably a cross-track of an animal, possibly some of the deer we had seen the day before when we were plotting the track. The track was an hour old when Tim and Kelly started out.

Following the tracks we all retired to the warmth and dryness of the cabin for lunch and talking. Art filled out the certifications for those who had earned them and awards were handed out. We wish those certified good luck when they enter a test and we thank Art Hartzell for his fine job judging.

New Members

In Accordance with our constitution we must inform the members prior to a meeting of new persons seeking to join the club and then these persons names shall be presented to the members at the next meeting to be voted upon. The following persons have applied to become members of the Lenape Tracking Club (this applies to new members only, not renewals).

Mr. James Jarocki. 509 Harrison Street, Frenchtown, N.J. 08825 German Shepherds.

Mr. Richard Yurasek, Elizabeth Yurasek Box 287 Hensfoot Rd., R.D. Hampton, N.J. 08827 German Shepherds.

Mrs. Carol Parkinson 252 Lynwood Avenue, Trenton, N.J. 08609 German Shepherds.

RAH!

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MEMBERS DOGS PROGRESS.....

A Canadian TD for Ebony of Springdale Ranch U.D. Can. C.D.X. and John Miktus, earned April 17, 1977

An American TD for Badger C.D.X. and Sally Lacy, earned on April 3, 1977 at the Philadelphia D.T.C. Test

A Utility leg for Master Mac Reb of Jolly Way C.D.X. and Joanne MacKinnon.....at long last.....HURRAH !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Two legs on a C.D. for Penny and Marrion Case...one to go!

One leg on a Candian C.D. for Gypsy (age 9 mos.) and John Miktus.

Badger and Sally Lacy repeated a T.D. performance at the Taconic Hills Test on April 16th.

SEARCH AND RESCUE DEMONSTRATION

You will find a flyer enclosed on a discussion and demonstration by two members of the Adirondack Rescue Dog Association. Your club is sponsoring this demonstration, we hope that you will support it with your presence. We know there are shows that day that some may have entered already, we hope you can return in time. If you can't be present try to talk someone you know, someone who is a rescue squad member or fireman or policeman or another interested dog person into attending. If you are coming, don't come alone. We have and are contacting many of the service organizations in and around the area, but sometimes a personal contact from a person explaining a bit about the whole idea can be the spark to encourage attendance. If you have done nothing before for the club or if you have, please make it a point to personally contact someone about this program. These people are coming quite a distance and we want them to have a good sized audience. When talking to an agency or individual stress their thorough training, their availability if needed, and that they can be used even after people have searched the area. Feel free to make more copies of the flyer if you have access to a copying machine to pass out. Invite other dog clubs to attend, all are welcomed. We are trying to get publicity in as many papers as possible, and you may even hear about it on the radio stations. It is important to show the agencies that have the need occasionally for such teams of dogs and handlers that they exist and what they can do. PLEASE HELP US ACHIEVE THIS GOAL

We have had a note of thanks from Roz Hart upon receiving the plaque that her Corgi Sherry earned for the TD last year. It says in part "You can't imagine how delighted I was to receive the Lenape T.C. plaque.....It is lovely, and one of the nicest awards I've ever received. Thank you & the club so much for sending it. Sherry thanks you, too! I told her she earned it." We all hope to be seeing Roz up and around the shows again this year.

Vannessa Den Ouden also sent a note of thanks for the award.

Think about this..... taken from the Daily News, Sunday, March 27, 1977 and the column Animal World by Dr. Frank Miller.

Dear Dr. Miller: I have a great plot for a detective story. But first, I need to know if a dog with a good nose is able to distinguish between the human scents of Identical twins. WT

Dear W.T.: Not Likely. The scent of identical twins is itself so nearly identical the dog probably could not distinguish between them.

Comments invited on this.....and your own items welcomed....this is your newsletter.

Sally Lacy attended an advanced tracking match the day following the Taconic Hills Tracking Test. AKC Judge Merrill Cohen was in charge. These matches have been being run to test out the various proposals for an American TDX test. Sally sent the following to be shared with all of you.

Having just returned from watching an advanced tracking test organized by the Taconic Hills Kennel Club and judged by Merrill Cohen and Sallie Crooks, I want to record my impressions and observations before they evaporate. There was so much to see, to learn and to enjoy that I want everyone in the Lenape club to share it.

The terrain was more difficult than that usually encountered in TD tests (says she, the veteran of two), but not impossibly so. Hills, valleys, open woods, dirt road, gaps in vegetation, small stream, corners of fields and edges of woods utilized, some stoney New England fields and comfortable old stone walls were worked into the tracks. Sometimes the track was contained in one field and sometimes it spilled over into two. Dogtoothed violets and spring beauties nodded in the sun.

The time elapsed was at least two hours, and most tests were run at about that time. Every effort was made to be fair and give no time handicap to any dog.

I watched the laying of one track which went something like this: Tracklayer and Diversion-tracklayer (T & D) went to their starting flag, carrying their charts with them. They started and walked so that they would arrive at the point where they joined at the same time. Each picked up his starting flag, a flag at the joint, walked side by side and made a turn together (collecting another flag each) continued walking across a dirt road and then separated at the next set of flags with D, the left-hand partner, going straight ahead and T making a left turn. D continued ahead for a while and then rounded back to cross the T path at right angles and then exit the field. T went down into a corner and made his last drop right in the corner in fairly heavy vegetation. I'm not sure where the other two drops were along the T track, but the dog was required to find only two, one of which had to be the last one. They were about 800 yard tracks.

The judges were relaxed and supportive and gave the dogs plenty of time to work out their problems. Only if it were quite apparent that the dog was committed to the D as a new track (50 yards of commitment) or if it had left the field in search of goodness knows what did they blow that wretched whistle. All dogs were lovely to watch and I picked up lots of tips on handling and training. They follow in no particular order, but as I remember them:

1. Always know where the track is when training for advanced work. By now you know how to read your dog, and you will set yourself back if you allow the dog to flounder or to make a commitment on a diversion.
2. It seems to be all right to do quite a bit of this work laying the track yourself, though not the diversion training.
3. Divide the work into segments and do not try to train for more than one on any day until you have confidence in the dog's ability to do several and then put them together. For example, the problems to be solved may be
 - a) crossing a road or stream or fence or other boundary line, b) entering or leaving different types of vegetation, such as short to tall grass, woods to fields, plowed ground to field. Plowed ground is very hard, by the way.
 - c) age of track, d) lengthening the track, e) distractions of various kinds, from contamination to pastured animals or tied dogs.
4. Diversions require a special paragraph because there seem to be two main types of diversions employed in tracking tests. The Canadian TDX uses a cross track, either perpendicular or angled. This is a fresher track than the designated track. The one I watched used a different technique - the tracks are of identical age and sometimes are adjacent with the people walking side

by side and sometimes they cross. In the second case, the dog must be absolutely certain of the particular scent he has started on because there is no difference in the age of the track. In the first case, since the Canadian tracks are older by at least an hour, the dog must have an ability to reject a fresher track, and must have a sense of different age tracks.

I heard some people saying that they had the dog follow someone they knew and liked as the principal tracklayer and have a stranger as the diversion when they started. Then they tried to have two people the dog liked, and then go on to having the principle tracklayer a stranger and the diversion a known person.

Another piece of advice here was to let the dog check out the diversion but never let it become committed to it or they would begin to make the same mistake over and over. Another technique I saw was during a difficult time when the dog had lost the track, as he had drifted downhill on a leg and was actually between the track and diversion. He was doing a lot of casting and checking, and his handler gave him the glove he had found previously to refresh his memory of the scent he was after. I think this would be a good technique to use in training, too.

5. It seems to be all right for the dog to retrace his steps and work back up the scent. One dog retraced nearly 100 yards to his first turn and then turned around and charged back down the track with more confidence. Some people thought she was letting the dog go too far back on the track, but it seemed to be the right thing for this dog. Particularly since he was a strong golden and she was a slight woman and didn't have very much to say about where he was taking her. She drew the track with the most ups and downs and woods, and deserved a battle star for staying on her feet, I thought. I would have been tempted to snub him on the nearest tree a couple of times.

6. Training on school grounds seemed to be popular. The grass is short and gets the noses right down. Also there are lots of things left around which the dog must learn to ignore as not being related to the tracklayer.

7. There is an advanced test being prepared for the fall in Mass. which included a "lost-child" leg, which is a wandering path. It also requires that one of the articles be left on an elevated something or other, a bush a few feet off the ground. This should be fun to train for. The articles can't all be gloves, either.

In conclusion, I think the advanced training is going to be a lot more fun than the TD work because there is no end to the kinds of variations to include. Also, since the tests are not yet codified and reduced to competitive porridge, everyone is having a marvelous time.

Thank you , Sally.

PRACTICES: the one held in April was attended by two persons. Is this because matches and shows have started? Is it worthwhile continuing them in May and June? Is it fair to ask someone to be in charge for so few people? Are there enough interested people to keep the practices going? Everyone has been wanting them, but not too many have been showing up.....lets have some ideas from the members on this.

COMING UP: Picnic at the Mac Kinnons later this summer, with a fun event for the dogs again. Tracking match in the fall. More practices????

All the papers have been sent to the AKC, we are waiting to hear from them, keep your fingers and paws crossed folks.

ADVANCED TRACKING: a premium list for this to be held 11/20/77 by the Concord Dog Training Club is available from Mrs. Robert Walker, 11 Waltham Rd. Wayland, Mass. 01773. 615-358-7944. No entries accepted until after July 15.

COMBINED ADVANCED TRACKING: These are the rules for the advanced test to be held in the fall in case you folks want to practice up.

Length: Minimum 800 yards (no maximum) Age: At least three (3) hours.

Start: Marked by a single flag. The tracklayer shall thoroughly trample an area of about one (1) yard square, remain standing for one (1) minute, then proceed to do the track at a normal walking pace. The start to be laid in such a manner that the track could go in any direction.

Articles: Three different articles (i.e. leather gloves, belts, billfolds, shoes, pieces of clothing) belonging to the tracklayer are to be utilized. A piece of clothing for this test means a piece of cloth owned by the tracklayer measuring between four(4) and six(6) inches square. Texture and color of this cloth is not important. No articles are to be dropped on top of the ground within (20) paces of a corner. The first article to be no less than two hundred fifty (250) paces from the starting flag. The second article must be elevated six(6) to twelve (12) inches off the ground and an arm's distance to one side of the original track. The third article is to be left at the end of the track. It is only necessary for the dog to indicate the three (3) articles to the handler. The dog must indicate at least two (2) articles of which one (1) must be the last article.

Conflicting tracks : Two(2) different types- both will appear in each track.
(A) This diversion will be laid at the time the original track is laid. The diversionary tracklayer will start at least one hundred (100) yards from the original tracklayer. The two will meet and walk together for at least one hundred fifty (150) yards but not over two hundred fifty (250) yards and separate at right angles to each other. They can come in and leave either side - they may or may not cross each other's track. After separation, they must walk straight (no corners) for at least one hundred (100) yards. After the two tracklayers separate, the primary tracklayer will drop an article sometime after he has proceeded at least one hundred (100) yards and not less than fifty (50) yards from the finish. In other words, no article on the common leg.

(B) Double cross track - at least one (1) hour or no more than one and one-half (1½) hours after the track had been laid, one or both judge(s) will direct two other unrelated persons to walk side by side, four (4) feet apart while crossing the original track at two widely separated points as determined by the judge(s).

"Lost Child" leg: This will be a meandering leg of one hundred (100) or more yards of track or path through a wooded or low underbrush area. It is on this leg that the article on the low bush or tree will be found. This "lost child" leg will be somewhere near the middle of the minimum eight hundred (800) yards total length.

Length of lead: Discretion of handler.

Terrain: Varying.....may include crossing paved or dirt road, crossing through or over low stone walls; post and rail fences, etc., but judges should take great care that these are not physical barriers for the handlers or for small dogs. This is not a test of endurance or physical fitness for man or dog.

Corners: Except for the "lost child" leg, all other corners are not to be less than ninety (90) degrees.

Membership List: A complete membership list will be included in the next newsletter, complete with phone numbers. If any information has changed for you, please let us know. At present the old list lacks only the three proposed members and a few that did not renew.