

LENAPE TRACKING CLUB



COMMON SCENTS

SEPTEMBER--OCTOBER 1988

VOL. 13 NO. 5

DATES TO REMEMBER

SATURDAY, NOV. 5 & SUNDAY, NOV. 6, 1988, CERTIFICATION
MATCH

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1989, TRACKING EXPERIENCE DAY

WHO'S WHO

OFFICERS;

President;

PEG FORTE

RD1 Box 315
Sliker Rd
Glen Gardner, N.J.
08826
201-832-7231

Vice President:

RON LOOS

Rocking Horse Farm
Box 188
Bedminister, N.J.
07921
201-234-0507

Secretary:

DOROTHEA VAIL

329 Crescent Ave.
Leonia, N.J. 07605
201-947-1835

Treasurer:

FRANCES WILMETH

294 Aquetong Rd.
New Hope, PA. 18938
215-862-2453

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VICTORIA BROWN
RD 1 Box 6002
Englishtown, N.J.
07726
201-446-3219

LINDA RILEY
Box 385
Peapack, N.J.
07977
201-234-0372

PAT ETHELLES
P.O. Box 326
Lebanon, N.J.
08823
201-236-2423

CHARLOTTE YURASEK
RD Box 287
Hensfoot Rd.
Hampton, N.J. 08827
201-735-7229

MARTHA HAMIL
357 North 4th Ave.
Highland Park, N.J.
08904
201-846-5333

COMMITTEES:

MEMBERSHIP: Fran Wilmeth

INTERCLUB COMMUNICATIONS: Fran Wilmeth

FLYBALL/SCENT HURDLE: Janet Quodomine

TRACKING EXPERIENCE DAY: Fran Wilmeth

FALL CERTIFICATION MATCH: Janet Quodomine 201-852-7127

NEWSLETTER: Marion Rapp 201-538-4142

FOOTPRINTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As usual we are running a bit late with this newsletter. Members who attend the Match on the 6th will get their copies there - saves a bit on the postage.

AKC news - the revised constitution has been submitted After the vote on the name at the picnic on Oct. 22, that change was submitted also. We voted to submit the name of Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey. Now we wait some more.

Picnic - Those of us who were there had a great time. The rain held off, Ralph had a nice fire going in the wood stove in his barn so we were well warmed when inside. The agility course was a big hit - many thanks to Katrine Johnson for lending us her equipment.

Thanks also to Fran Wilmeth who helped us get started the right way on tough obstacles like the "dog walk." And thanks to her helpers.

Of course the biggest ***** THANK YOU ***** GOES TO JOANNE AND RALPH MAC KINNON who shared their place with us. As usual they were great hosts.

As of this date the match has six entries. Many have volunteered to help lay the tracks. We have great fields lined up. Now all we need is good weather. If you aren't entered or helping, come on out and watch. We always learn new things each year from watching the dogs and working with the judge.

We are already planning for the next annual dinner meeting. At this point the tentative date is april 1. We are trying to get a different site for the dinner this year. Somewhere in the Clinton area.

Hope to see you at the Match.

Peg Forte

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER:

Diane Travia
26 Shellflower Lane
Hamilton Square, N.J. 08690

609-890-8534

Boxer

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Fran Wilmeth, our treasurer, membership, interclub communications and TED chairman, has been exchanging letters with Margaret Haese of the Pecatonica Tracking Club, Inc which meets out of Monroe, Wisconsin. It seems our club and Margaret's have something in common...our names have been derived from Native American words.

In New Jersey, it is well known that the simple name, "Lenape" is pronounced at least two different ways and Margaret, writing from Wisconsin, was curious as to the proper pronunciation. Fran wrote and told her and then asked Margaret how the name of their club was pronounced.

Margaret's answer is as follows:

"We finally know how to pronounce 'Lenape!' Our club is named after a small town with a nice county park that turned out to be too small for tests (Pecatonica River Forest Preserve). The Pecatonica River runs through southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Pronounced 'Peck-uh-TAHN-ick-uh.'"

Signed, Margaret Haese (pronounced "Hays")

HOWARD HUGO®



"I said, 'I'll be glad when that talent show is over at his obedience school.'"

MARGARET PEARSALL ON TRACKING...

The following was copied and excerpted from THE CORGI QUARTERLY'S interview with Margaret Pearsall which was conducted on March 4, 1988 by Debby Rothman.

DID YOU ENJOY TRACKING A LOT?

I enjoyed it more than any of the other work. I liked all the other very much, but there was something about the tracking that was special. Maybe it went back to my own childhood, as I was an outdoor kid. I was brought up in the country, and a lot of my childhood was on the farm. My mother was widowed when I was only two-and-a-half and she was twenty. She and I grew up together. Of course, she was out working, and a lot of my childhood was spent with my grandparents on the farm. I would go out in the woods and around the farm, and I was at home in the outdoors. I think probably a lot of my feeling for the outdoors goes back to those days. Later, I had a stepfather who was a great hunter. He taught me to hunt and with everything combined and, of course, you have to learn an awful lot and you have to sense an awful lot if you are out there with the wild game. I think the whole thing sort of came together in a package.

IS IT HARD FOR YOU TO BECOME THIS INTUITIVE WHEN YOU ARE OUT HUNTING?

Yes, it takes time.

IS THAT A HARD THING TO LEARN FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE TRAINING THEIR DOGS TO TRACK AND NOT RELYING ON THEIR DOG?

I think one of the hardest things to get across to the handler is to trust the dog. Almost anybody who starts in tracking has many times when they are really trying to think for their dog, and it is so hard to get across to the that the dog has the nose and we don't.

I don't know just exactly how to describe this. One thing that we teach is how to show the dog to associate the action that he is going through with the command to track. You are teaching him that this scent is what you want him to track. The way we do it is to build up a track, going over and over it repeatedly in the beginning. We don't even go from one track to another at the beginning. We just work over and over a number of times on the same track.

We caution the handlers to make sure when they return, if they are still coming back the same way that they started out (sometimes when we get along the leg a little further, we will circle around and then come back around to the start) < to make sure that they don't step out of that line.

We also teach them to read the ground and to trust to

their dog's actions--to know what their actions mean. Of all the dogs that we have taught and all the handlers to whom we have taught tracking, we only came across one dog that we couldn't read. The handler, a girl, never did get a T on her. She had a Smooth Collie, and it was the only one that we have ever seen out in the field that we could not read.

We also taught people when they started to work that the reason the dog works off the direct line of a track is because that is where the most comfortable scent is for them to follow. WE can't tell what's comfortable for them. Some dogs will follow a track nearly two or three feet off where it was laid. But that is where they get the best smell, the best strength of that scent. Of course, wind conditions and weather conditions will vary the scent, too.

I REMEMBER READING THAT ALL DOGS SHOULD TRACK WITH THEIR NOSES ON THE GROUND. THAT'S NOT TRUE THEN?

That's what the German people and these people with the Schutzhunds believe--they think that the dog's nose should be right in the track.

WHAT IS THEIR PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THAT?

I don't know. I can't understand why they insist on it because it is not bred into a dog. It is not giving the dog the credit for what he knows because they are forcing their ideas into the action of the dog.

We judged a tracking test in Kansas City one time. It was shortly after our first book came out. We were out there working on a movie for the Ralston Purina Company, an educational training film, and while we were fooling around there with the dogs, we spent time with some of the people who were interested in tracking dogs and helped them get started.

They continued on and then got ready to have their own trial, their own AKC-approved test, and they wanted us to judge. An outstanding example of a dog working off the track was given by a Golden Retriever at that trial.

The track went forward, turned directly right, then left, and then concluded with another leg with the dropped glove at the end. On the first leg, the dog was right on the money, but there was quite a stiff wind that was blowing across the next leg and the dog made the turn to the right about twenty feet before the track actually turned. He followed it right along exactly parallel and, when it ran out of scent, made a left turn, picket it up and finished up the track.


That was the most remarkable thing to watch, knowing where the track was laid, as we knew the distance and everything because we plotted it. It was just so amazing to see that dog so exactly parallel to the actual leg that was farther up. We know that the dog was tracking--we could see he was working.

When you are judging, it is so easy if you understand the weather and the lay of the ground or hills, the rolling areas, valleys and shrubbery that is around. You can tell what is going on if you do understand the work. If you understand the working dog, you can spot right away what it is that will tell you whether that dog is on track or not. Sometimes it is the angle of the head or the angle of the tail or holding the tail still. Every dog has its own individual characteristics.


EXCEPT FOR THAT COLLIE?

Yes, right, except for that Smooth Collie.

TID BITS




Pat Etchells put a CDX on her black and tan Cocker bitch, Shadow, (Dur-bet's Shadowdancin') with legs at Delaware Water Gap, Huntington Valley and Berks Co. K.C.



Pat's daughter, Beth, was awarded \$25.00 for designing the masthead that appears on our first page by the board of Lenape Tracking Club.

Congratulations to the Etchells ladies!



Not show news, but Marion Rapp's Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Windsor and her Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Hope, raised \$38.00 in pledges when they participated in a 10K (6 mile) Walk for the Hungry sponsored by CROP in Morristown recently.

Please send news of your special friend to be included here.



Late Breaking News

Joanne Mac Kinnon's "Major" earned his Junior Hunter title. He finished the four leg at the Swamp Dog Club Junior Hunter Retriever Trial near Harriaburg, Pa. on Sept. 10. "Jezibel" got her first leg on the Junior Hunter title at the same test.

Remember the changes that the AKC proposed in the tracking rules that were reprinted in COMMON SCENTS in the July-August issue? The club sent its comments about them to the Obedience Department at 51 Madison Avenue. This is a copy of the letter.

American Kennel Club
Obedience Department
51 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10010

Dear Sir:

We wish to thank the Tracking Advisory Committee for your efforts on behalf of the tracking fancy. Our club generally approves of the changes, but there are some areas we felt should also have been addressed:

no change was made in the manner in which entrants are accepted - it is still a lottery system.

no provisions were made for an intermediate tracking test or certification for TDX test. TDX tracking is a very big jump from TD tracking.

Changes 14 and 42 we feel will cause difficulty in areas where there are few tests - will involve a lot of travelling. Land development in New Jersey is making it very hard for New Jersey clubs to provide tests - clubs have had to drop tracking trials because no land was available in their area.

As obedience people are eligible for judging when they have earned a UD title with a dog, we feel that tracking people should be eligible when they have earned a TD or TDX title with a dog.

We understand the reasoning to improve the quality and level of judging, but we feel that the above problems may make it very difficult for some eligible prospects to fulfill the requirements.

Sincerely,

Dorothea Vail
Dorothea Vail, Secretary
Lenape Tracking Club

And this is a copy of their answer.



THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

ROBERT J. SQUIRES
Director of Obedience—Field

(716) 671-5084


Dear Tracking Participant:

This letter is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter which contained comments concerning the recommendations of the Tracking Advisory Committee.

I apologize for using a form letter to acknowledge your letter. However, as you must understand, the volume of incoming mail makes it almost impossible to personally answer each letter and still accomplish my other required work. My use of a form letter does not indicate that your views are not taken seriously. A statistical record of each response received is maintained and will be provided, along with a summary of comments and all letters received, to the Performance Committee of the Board of Directors for their consideration and forwarding to the full Board of Directors when the final recommendations are considered.

Again, I thank you for your letter. Your views and interest in our sport of Tracking are appreciated.

Respectfully,


Robert J. Squires

