

LENAPE TRACKING CLUB

of

Central New Jersey



COMMON SCENTS

MARCH/APRIL, 1991

VOL. 16 No. 2

DATES TO REMEMBER

TED 1991

Saturday, April 27, 1991

TED Follow-ups

Saturday, June 8, 1991

Sunday, July 14, 1991

Saturday, August 17, 1991

Training for Tracklayers

Sunday, August 25, 1991

Certification Match

Sunday, September 22, 1991 (tentative)

Tracking Test

Sunday, November 3, 1991

WHO'S WHO**OFFICERS**

President	Fran Wilmeth	215-862-2453
Vice President	John Etchells	908-236-2423
Secretary	Dorothea Vail	201-947-1835
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Betty Fletcher	201-543-2687
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COMMITTEES

Membership/Interclub Communications	Fran Wilmeth	
Flyball/Scent Hurdle	Janet Quodomine	908-852-7127
Tracking Experience Day	Fran Wilmeth	
Tracking Test Secretary	Linda Riley	
Newsletter	Pat Etchells	



BARBARA DRESSEL and her cocker **Surry** have two legs on their UD after qualifying at First Dog and Saw Mill. **Flash** - Third leg at Queensboro!

MAELEINE LOOS writes that **Luckipenni, CDX**, was HIT at the Collie Club of Northern NJ's specialty for the third consecutive year and retired the Noel Lyssan Memorial Challenge Trophy with 194.5 in Open.

JOANNE MACKINNON is flying high with the news that **Skye, TD**, was rated OFA Excellent!

GSD **Presley MONDA** has his CDX title, earning a 1st, 2nd, and 4th in the process.

DOT VAIL's Golden **Bucky** got the second leg on his UD at First Dog.

MEMBERSHIP

The following person has submitted her application for membership. She will become a member 30 days after the mailing of this newsletter unless the secretary Dot Vail, 329 Crescent Ave., Leonia, NJ 07605 receives any letters of objection within 30 days.

Linda McManemy, 327 Elm St. Warminster, PA 18974 (215) 672-2594

Shelties: Balgaire's Carbon Copy, CDX, HC
 Fran-Dor's Shogun, CDX, HC
 Our Christmas Holly, CDX

DESIGNER TRACKING

Hudson Valley Tracking Club will be laying practice tracks the first Sunday of every month August through April. AKC judge Mike Clemens will be available to certify dogs who succeed. FMI: 518-456-3429.

; FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: ;

Our annual awards dinner was a most pleasant affair. I am wondering why only fifteen members were present. Four others signed up but didn't make the trip. The food and service were excellent. A lot of you missed a great evening. Betty Fletcher and Joanne MacKinnon each received their hard-earned plaques for getting Ts on Colonel and Skye. Our thanks to Peg Forte for making the unique awards. The Gaines Medal was awarded to Pat Etchells, who contributed extensive time, energy and computer expertise to the Newsletter and the trial premium list and catalog. The officers and Board members were voted in for another year. Welcome to those who are returning and to newcomers John Etchells as Vice President and Millie Hefner and Betty Fletcher as Board members.

It seems the letter from AKC granting approval of our first tracking test last November was lost in the holiday mail. At least our secretary never received it. Phone calls to AKC revealed it was sent on December 22nd. Our 1991 Test Secretary, Linda Riley, has not received the promised copy but has received the application forms for the 1991 test. They have gone back to AKC with the test planned for the weekend of November 2nd and 3rd. Sue Dolbin and Mike Clemens will be the judges. Save the date. Our annual Certification match will be the weekend of September 21st and 22nd with Donna Thompson the AKC judge and Betty Fletcher serving as the second judge.

Other dates to save are October 4th, 5th and 6th for the National Basset Club's Specialty Tracking Tests. {See following notice}. The TD will be Saturday the 5th with 12 tracks and the TDX will be Sunday the 6th with 5 tracks. It will be held at Monmouth Battlefield State Park near Freehold. Lenape

members Tony and Mary Ann Svizeny are in charge of arrangements, and we have agreed to help them with as many tracklayers as possible. We realize that the first weekend in October is a very busy one for dog people in this area with the Hatboro Kennel Club show on Friday, Devon on Saturday, and the Montgomery Kennel Club All Terrier show and a multitude of breed specialties on Sunday. By giving you advance notice, we hope you will plan accordingly.

There is a surge of interest in tracking in our area, if entries for our Tracking Experience Day are an accurate barometer. We have met our quota five weeks before the event takes place. In years past I've accepted entries up to the last week. Again, we'll need all the help we can get. Plan to be with us on April 27th at Jane Henderson's farm. We'll have some new panel members and a new demonstration dog, as neither Vicky Brown nor Joanne MacKinnon is available this year. Betty Fletcher and Colonel have agreed to do the demo track. We hope the spring grass doesn't grow too fast so Colonel, a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, will be visible.

We're planning a training session for tracklayers in August and will issue a certificate to those who prove they can retrace their steps without the aid of a dog. I'm sure we can all improve our map drawing skills, and we must be able to walk a handler/dog team through to the end if the dreaded whistle blows.

It's going to be a busy year, folks. Let's get tracking!

Fran Wilmeth, President

HELP NEEDED!

Mary Ann and Tony Svizeny (908-577-9662) are in need of tracklayers for the Basset Club's Tracking Test mentioned in Fran's message. If anyone can spare two days during this weekend to plot and lay

tracks, **please** let them know. The judges for the TD test are Lena Wray of FL and Sue Boyd of MO, and the TDX judges are Mike Clemens of NY and Sally Elkins of TX.

PEOPLE TRACKS

Betty's interest in obedience started many years ago when she had a Bullmastiff. She had a good friend who ran an obedience school, and since the Bullmastiff was a large dog, Betty started lessons. She trained her in CD work and got one leg, but because of traveling so much, Betty was never able to get her CD title. After Betty settled down, she decided that Mastiffs were a breed she would like to own. Each Mastiff was taken to obedience class and trained in basic CD work. Mastiffs, however, do not lend themselves to work well in the ring since they have two speeds: slow and stop, so hers were never shown.

"I had entered a tracking trial in Maryland and my husband said he would like to go with me and watch the Colonel get his "T" title, as he would always go with me when Colonel and I practiced. We drove the 6 hours down to Maryland, and when it was our turn to go out on the field, we had to go so far out you could not see the Colonel at all and I was just a dot, and very shortly after the first turn, we disappeared down a hill never to be seen again until the glove was found. On the 6 hour ride back he said very succinctly, "This was a nice ride today with very nice scenery. I really enjoyed myself; we must take a nice ride like this again."

Department Narcotics Division. The program will cover the involvement of the dog in drug detection. Slides and video tapes will show how the dogs are trained, etc. Guests are welcome!

How to Handle Your Dog at a Tracking Test

Reprinted from Cross Tracks, via a 9/88 Corgi Newsletter, by Richard Knapp

AUTHOR'S NOTE: There is sport, and then there are rules; there is purpose and there is intent; there is idealism and there is realism. In any AKC event you can "handle" your way through to a title if you know the rules and use them. There are those that would adhere to the purpose and spirit and idealism of the sport and those that would take advantage of the rules, misread the intent, and realistically misuse the sport. The purpose of the "handling" article is to encourage better preparation before running your dog and a recognition that you are not an uninterested bystander but a part of a team while running your dog. If I had my way, the handler would be blindfolded at the starting stake so that only the dog would be judged and not the handler. I encourage the use and not the misuse of the following.

But the rules say you cannot lead or guide your dog! True, but don't take this too literally. Don't forget that the rules state that a dog may be "restrained" and allow for verbal commands at any time, and if this isn't handling, I don't know what is.

For those new to our sport and our Schutzhund friends who track to different rules, here are a few of the better known handling techniques you should use before and during a test.

1. Keep to your normal training routine before a test. If you work your dog every 3 days, do so before a test and don't try to cram in an extra few tracks. Many handlers give their dogs 3 to 7 days off so that the dog is fresh and anxious to track.
2. Stick to your pretrack routine at a test. If you play ball with your dog before a practice track, do so at the test. One half hour before my last test I had my dog watch me as I took two stakes and a glove out of my trunk and walked off to lay track, or so the dog thought. I drove to the site of my real track and ran it just as if it were a practice track, but just as nervous as everyone else entered.
3. Be ready to run your track when you are called!!! Your track and two or three others are aging while you get ready!
 - A. Have your pretrack routine done *before* your track is called.
 - B. Have your harness ready and the lead untangled *before* your track is called.
- C. The judge will ask you if you have any questions before you run your track, but this is the wrong time to ask them. Ask your questions before or after the draw or whenever the opportunity presents itself before your track. In this way you will have your answers in time to think them through and not in a panic situation while your track is aging.
- D. Never run, though, and don't start until you are ready. For your benefit and those that follow, though, be prepared *before* your track is called.
4. Approach the starting stake from a point 30 yards before it and in line with the 30-yard stake. This is where 90% of the tracklayers will approach the stake and your dog can get the scent he will be tracking before he ever starts. Also, the track hasn't started yet, and leading and guiding are allowed up to the first stake.
5. Before your dog passes the 30-yard stake, you may ask the judges for a restart. If your dog is wandering all over the place and isn't tracking before the 30-yard stake, don't be afraid to ask for a restart! Remember, though, you will be allowed only one restart.
6. Some judges allow some leading or guiding between the first and 30-yard stake. If this has helped you in practice, ask the judges if you can do so at the test.

7. The rules state that you must follow your dog at a distance of at least 20 feet. The key word in that statement is *follow*! If your dog gets tangled in the lead, you may approach it and untangle it. If your dog circles at a turn and approaches you, you are not following the dog and you won't be failed.
8. You may give your dog verbal commands at any time. If your dog pulls toward a rabbit, you can say No, Come, and Track! Of late, my most popular command seems to be "Track you no good #####!" or "quit *&%@# around!"
9. You may restrain your dog, but you may not drag or pull the dog back to you,. If your dog wants to go where a track cannot go, stop in your tracks and hold the lead tight, but do not take up additional line by pulling the dog towards you, just let the dog work things out.
10. Here are some examples of when you might handle your dog while tracking. Be sure you have done these things in practice before you try them at a test, as you won't know the response of the dog and could be in for a surprise.
 - A. Your track will have legs of 50 yards or more. If at the 30-yard stake your dog veers off to the left, stop and restrain your dog until he is back on the track you *know* is there.
 - B. Your track will not cross a paved road or go into a dense treeline, or into a body of water, nor parallel to a boundary closer than 15 yards. If your track approaches an obstacle such as those at a right angle, you should not let your dog go all the way up to them. You should prevent this by restraining the dog and/or calling it away from the obstacle as you will know there is no track there. While running a dog in a test, distances are almost impossible to determine. Every leg will either feel like 10 or 10,000 yards and very few people can actually judge 15 yards while being tested. Just remember that when you get close to an obstacle, you can prevent your dog's progress via restraint and give verbal commands to encourage the behavior you want.
11. Backing up can also be a useful tool and is allowable. Many field dogs are notorious air scenters and it is not uncommon for them to overshoot a turn. If your dog is tracking well and all of a sudden stops and starts circling, you may have overshot the turn. While the dog circles around you, the lead will be slack and you may back up to the point where last the dog was tracking well, in hopes that the dog will pick up the scent again and find the turn. When backing up you are not *following* the dog. You are giving the dog room to work in and not leading or guiding the dog. What you cannot do is pull the dog back with you.
12. Judging guidelines state that the judges should follow you at a distance of about 50 yards and should stay on the track. On a long leg, it is not uncommon for judges to stand on the corner you have completed and face along the path of your track so they may properly evaluate your dog and mark your path on their sheets. This is a guideline and not a rule and you cannot count on it all of the time. However, if you find yourself in a desperate situation during your track, take a look behind you and see which way the judges are facing, and via restraint and verbal encouragement, try to position your dog in line with the judges.

None of this is meant to be trickery or a way of "getting around the rules," or to encourage shortcuts in training. Also all judges are not perfect and may plot a track contrary to the rules (no names please). Tracking is a team event, however, and even the best of dogs can have an off day or a problem on the track, and it is up to the handler to give his dog every chance to work through the problem.

It also has to be said that none of us are saints; we want to earn our titles, and we want to get our worth from the entry fees. Desperate situations can force us into desperate action, and there are times when any action is better than none.

Speed

Reprinted from Cross Tracks, October, 1990

Tracking speed, that is not those little pills some of you (not me) took in the 60s or how fast some of us drive when trying to get to the draw for tracks. How fast should a dog track? Is it important?

To this tracker, how fast an AKC tracker tracks is of little importance so long as the result is achieved. Speed seems to be important in scent work only when chasing a fleeting felon or trying to find a ticking bomb - now that is pressure! When drug scenting, or searching through rubble for bodies, thoroughness is the key and not speed. In Schutzhund tracking, speed is not important except that the speed is to be constant no matter how fast or slow you go. Schutzhund tracks are scored though, and over-shooting turns or articles are points off, so it behooves them to go slow. There is no mention of speed in AKC rules except to say there is no time limit for a track so long as the dog is working. Overshooting turns and articles is allowed so long as they are indicated or taken.

In classes I am teaching for the club, I am telling the students that the best speed is the one you and your dog work best at. The handler and the dog are a tracking team. When starting, motivation is most important, and we hope the dogs will rush to the visible glove a few yards away. Most people cannot keep up with a running dog for very long, and most dogs don't track well while running full tilt, so as tracks get longer and longer, I instruct the handlers to apply tension to the lead, but only so much as to slow the dog down without diminishing his motivation. The length of the tracks and its aging often slows a dog down naturally, and the average dog will settle into a gait most comfortable to him. If the handler can follow his dog at the dog's natural tracking speed while keeping the lead from tangling and the handler can comfortably observe the dog and tracking conditions, then this is the best speed, fast or slow.

Slow is normally better, that should be a given. There are some pros and cons to this that should be understood.

1. A slow dog tends to step-track and is steady. This dog usually finds articles even if not one hundred percent on the track by air scenting. Slow dogs don't get as winded or tired as fast dogs and can concentrate on the scent.
2. A slow black dog in the Florida heat can burn out before the end of the track. Slow dogs have more time to find all kinds of interesting scents and investigate them, including cross tracks. The longer a dog tracks, the more likely it will lose its motivation.
3. Fast dogs often shoot past distracting scents such as cross tracks, but can also pass by articles if not directly on the track. Most dogs are fast because they are motivated but can get tired out and discouraged when faced with challenges.
4. Fast dogs often clearly indicate turns by stopping and searching, but this requires quick reaction and good lead handling by the handler. Some dogs work their best by gaiting, but the handler can burn out and not complete a 1,000 yard track.

The key is to recognize the problem that slow or fast can cause and learn how to adjust your training accordingly.

With the greatest appreciation and admiration for all their hard work and dedication, some tracking teams just don't work out. Many remember a 10+ year old dog taking 10 minutes just to get to the 30 yard stake. Another tracker can barely keep up with his dog and almost needs an ambulance after every track. Some dogs are naturally slow and some are naturally fast. Some of us (who?) can run a 1,000 yard TDX track while a few others have a hard time walking a 440 yard track.

Motivation, dedication, and commitments are the key words for most everything worth doing, and that includes tracking. How fast you reach your goals is of little importance. Next time you go tracking, enjoy the trip no matter how long it takes, and when you get to the end, rejoice.