

# LENAPE TRACKING CLUB

of

Central New Jersey



# COMMON SCENTS

JULY/AUGUST, 1991

VOL. 16 No. 4

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### **TED Follow-up**

Saturday, August 17, 1991

### **Training for Tracklayers**

Sunday, August 25, 1991

### **Certification Match**

Sunday, September 22, 1991

### **Annual Picnic**

Saturday, September 28, 1991

### **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
Treasurer	Linda Riley	908-234-0372

**BOARD**

Betty Fletcher	201-543-2687
Peg Forte	908-832-7231
Martha Hamil	908-846-5333
Millie Hefner	201-267-5676
Charlotte Yurashek	908-735-7229

**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 IRWIN's Papillon **Bunny** earned her UD with legs at Princeton, Staten Island and Rockland County. Her Collie **Firefly** was High Combined at the Collie Club of Northern NJ and HIT at Hunterdon Hills Collie Club.

Collie **Luckipenni** LOOS finished her UD title at Wallkill, after getting legs with scores of 193, 195.5 and

193.5. She is the sixth dog RONN and MAELEINE have put a UD on - in addition to 3 TD titles. All of the dogs except one have been rescue German Shepherds and Collies.

LINDA RILEY will be moving to Califon in August, where she has accepted a live-in assignment with a veterinary practice.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The following persons have submitted applications for membership. They will become members 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.

George Calverley, 6733 Passer Rd, Coopersburg, PA 18036 (215) 282-3872  
Weimaraner: "Max" Ch Zara's Blue Max, CD, SH, NSD, SD, NRD, "VX"

Debby Gatier, 247 E. Forest Grove Rd., Vineland, NJ 08360 (609) 696-0969  
Golden Retrievers: "Molly" Goldengrove Beau's Last Legacy  
Goldengrove Bustin Loose, CD

Carol Salzetti, 342 S. Pleasantview Rd., Pottstown, PA 19464 (215) 327-3286  
Dachshund: "Tiger" Cardinaldachs Little Tiger

Joanne Silver, 412 Woodbury Dr, Wyckoff, NJ 07481 (201) 891-5090  
Chessies: "Coco" Homespun Silver Starburst, CD, Therapy Dog  
"Sofie" Rocky Creek Just Sophie

**MATCH HELP NEEDED**

Certified Tracklayers  
Call John Etchells  
(908) 236-2423



Food Preparers  
Call Joanne MacKinnon  
(908) 735-7793

## ; FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: ;

As I write this, we are in the midst of our second eight-to nine-day long heat wave and the 36th day of higher than 90 degree temperatures plus high humidity. Not a great summer for tracking, but it hasn't stopped almost half of the people who attended TED in April. We had 16 people and dogs at the June follow-up and 17 at the July one. These people are moving along, some on week five or six of the Johnson schedule. I predict that some will be ready for our certification match in September.

There has been one big problem with the follow-up sessions, and that has been a lack of member participation. There are four or five members who come regularly, help with the TED trackers and perhaps track their own dogs if time and land availability permit. I am eternally grateful to these loyal helpers, but where are the rest of you? We have fifty names on our membership list, which indicates people are interested enough to pay dues. The dates of the follow-ups are published in the Newsletter. I send fliers to sixteen members who have helped in the past. There is a tear-off sheet for an easy reply. Two people who usually come sent back the forms explaining why they could not come this time. One person indicated she would be there. Four used the telephone, and the rest did not communicate at all. What is so difficult about checking a "yes" or "no" on a slip of paper, sticking it in an envelope and mailing it? I really need to know who is coming and who is not so I can plan small groups with appropriate instructors. I try to plan Friday night so we don't waste time Saturday morning making the assignments. Friday night before the July follow-up I had 19 handler/dog teams signed up and only five Club members to serve as group leaders. That was panic time. We worked it out by having the handlers lay track for

each other, which turned out to be educational and beneficial for them, but I hope the August follow-up turn-out is better, much better.

Now I'll get off my soap box and mention some future events. The August TED follow-up is Saturday the 17th. The next weekend on Sunday, August 25th, we are having our track layers certification test. This is a chance to hone your track laying skills and prepare for serving as a track layer at our Certification Match, the TD and TDX tests of the Basset National Specialty in October and our second annual Tracking Test in November. *"Tracking Scents"* magazine picked up our idea of a certified track layers test and listed our August date as a clinic. As a result, I've had five or six inquiries from people in Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York state that want to come. I've explained to them that this first venture is for Lenape members only, but if all goes well, we may try a track layer training session for the general tracking public next year.

In September we have our Certification Match on the 22nd. Track layers will be needed on both the 21st and 22nd. Our general meeting and annual picnic will be at the MacKinnon's on Saturday, September 28th. This is always a fun day for people and dogs. We will try to have agility again this year. You will find registrations for most of these events in this Newsletter. Don't forget we will need track layers for the Basset National Specialty on October 4th and 5th for TD and October 5th and 6th for TDX. The tests will be in the vicinity of Freehold, NJ. I hope to see many of you turn out for these various activities. Meanwhile, keep cool.

Fran Wilmeth, President

## TRACKLAYER INSTRUCTIONS

Reprinted from MTA News, September, 1990, by Dave Behrens

The new Tracking Regulations provide some new directions for how tracks are to be laid. The following is an abstract of the regulations that apply to tracklayers. These are the words of the regulations with my attached comments where relevant. Test chairmen may feel free to send a copy of this article to their tracklayers prior to the day of plotting as a reminder of their responsibilities.

### General Tracklayer Instructions

The track shall be marked by flags which the tracklayer can readily follow on the day of the test.

Judges shall approve all articles well in advance of the time the track is laid so that any article which is not acceptable can be replaced. *(Have extra articles in case some are not satisfactory).*

The article(s) shall have been in the tracklayer's possession for sufficient time to ensure that it is impregnated with the tracklayer's scent. *(What is sufficient? Each judge will have his/her own guideline. Some tracklayers like to "sleep" with their articles. That's probably more than necessary. To help impregnate the article with scent, the tracklayer can place the article under his/her arm prior to going to lay the track.)*

All articles shall be inconspicuous in color in comparison to the surrounding terrain. *(Have articles that are both dark and light in color so as to suit the cover in which your track will be laid.)*

All articles are to be about the same size as a glove or a wallet. *(Roughly the size of an average adult's hand.)*

Articles are to be dropped on the track by the tracklayer. After being dropped, an article should not be visible from a distance of more than 20 feet and shall not be covered with any substance in order to conceal it.

A person cannot act as a tracklayer for a dog if that person has boarded, laid a track for or regularly trained the dog whose track he/she is to lay within the past 60 days. *(If you know that you fit into this category, tell the Test Secretary prior to the draw.)*

The tracklayer must not be a person with whom the dog has resided or a member of the household or a member of the immediate family of the dog's handler. Immediate family means husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law. *(If you fit this category, tell the Test Secretary prior to the draw.)*

The judges may modify the draw to meet the requirements of the tracklayer. *(You can still serve as a tracklayer as long as the draw is modified.)*

Tracklayers are to be present during the day of plotting, so as to be generally familiar with the tracking fields and the location of the racks. *(If you can't be there both days, you shouldn't agree to lay track.)*

The tracklayer shall wear his own footwear which may be of any material. *(If it's wet, rubber boots are permitted.)*

It is the Judge's responsibility to instruct the tracklayer so that each track will be properly laid. *(If you're not sure of something, ask the judges.)*

The Judges shall ensure that the tracklayer carries an outline of the track showing all pertinent features information. *(The tracklayers should draw their own maps. This means come prepared with paper, pencil, clipboard and a cover or mylar sheets if it's rainy.)*

#### TD Instructions

The tracklayer shall walk in a natural manner. There should be no scuffing of the feet over any portion of the track, including the area at the starting flag or

between flags. *(You can't make a scent pad for the dog.)*

The tracklayer shall go to the first flag, pause and then proceed in walking the track. Circling the flag, or scuffing the feet around the flag is prohibited.

The tracklayer shall pick up all but the first two flags in a Tracking Test/TD or all but the first flag and the crosstrack flags in a Tracking Test/TDX.

After dropping the last article, the Tracklayer shall continue a straight line for at least 30 yds. as a continuation of the last leg of the track. The tracklayer should then proceed out of the field in the direction previously explained by the Judges. *(The article is dropped on the track and you walk off the same as before. No scent pad is made, and you should not run, leap, jump in making your exit.)*

No tracklayer, after completing the track, may return within 75 yds. of any unused part of a track. *(Be careful to stay away from any turns or starts of not only your track but also the other tracks.)*

If the tracklayer is aware of an error, it must be made known to the Judges as soon as possible. *(Do this quietly and privately. Many times a track can be used as long as the Judges know what it is that is changed. Be sure to finish a track to the best of your ability and drop the article. Write down on your map what you did.)*

The time the tracklayer started is to be shown on the official charts. *(Know ahead of time when you are supposed to lay your track. Note the time you actually start.)*

#### TDX Instructions

The Tracking test/TDX articles shall consist of four (4) personal, dissimilar articles, about the same size as a glove or wallet, that are to be dropped on the track by the tracklayer. *(Have a variety of articles of different colors, preferably cloth, leather or vinyl and not hard plastic, wood or metal.)*

Only the last article may be a glove or a wallet.

The first article shall be dropped at the starting flag and be clearly visible to the handler.

The tracklayer will begin at about 30 yds. from the starting flag, lining up with the starting flag and the next flag. The tracklayer will proceed along this line so there is no turn at the starting flag.

While walking this line, the tracklayer will pause momentarily at the first flag, drop the first article and continue walking the track as specified. *(No scent pads or circling permitted.)*

### Crosstrack Instructions

Two (2) cross-tracklayers will lay the plotted cross-tracks at least 1 hour and 15 minutes, but not later than 1 hour and 45 minutes after the tracklayer has started laying the actual test track. *(Find out what time the tracklayer started and know ahead of time what time you are expected to lay the crosstrack.)*

The cross-tracklayers shall walk side by side, about four (4) feet apart, and will follow each of the two (2) cross-tracks which were staked out with flags a day or more earlier, collecting all of the cross-track flags along the way.

The actual track should be crossed at an angle of approximately 90 degrees.

The cross-tracks shall be more than 30 yds. from an article or an obstacle; and more than 50 yds. from a turn. The cross-tracks may not be within 75 yds. of the start of the track and must not be closer than 50 yds. to any other

part of the track, except when they cross the track. *(Be aware of where your track is laid so as to stay clear of turns and start.)*

After the last crossing of the track, the cross-tracklayers shall proceed straight ahead for at least 50 yds..

The cross-track may not be within 75 yds. of any other track. *(Be aware of where the other tracks are laid so as to stay clear of turns and starts.)*

The time the cross-tracklayers started is to be shown on the official charts. *(Know ahead of time when you are supposed to lay your cross-track. Note the time you actually start.)*

I hope this helps to serve as a guideline to tracklayers to prepare for working at a test. The key fact to remember is: **There are no stupid questions. You learn by asking.**

### **WANTED: EXPERIENCED, KNOWLEDGEABLE TRACKLAYERS**

Reprinted from STA ON TRACK via Pecatonica TC January, 1991, Newsletter, by Janice M. Thomas

It seems that all too frequently the alternate tracks are having to be used simply because the tracklayers are not paying attention to instructions, are careless, and are untrained in tracking. As a tracking judge I realize that no matter how careful the committee is, a track can be spoiled by elements beyond their control. However, I do know for a fact that the test chairman often times just takes whatever person is available, without checking the tracklayer's credentials out. The tracklayer, just as much as the stewards at an obedience trial, can make or break the trial or tracking test.

It is imperative that the test chairman present the judges with dependable, knowledgeable, experienced tracking personnel. When you have "tracklayers" who don't show up on the plotting morning or are late to arrive at the tracking site, forget (in a TD test) what type of shoes to wear, skip a flag when laying the track, forget to drop (let alone bring) their respective articles on the site, or just plain don't show up for the assigned tracking test, the officials and exhibitors suffer.

Frankly, I think most obedience and tracking clubs would be wise to offer a short class for tracking folks, especially those who wish to be invited to lay tracks for the event. Classes, including map reading, for the interested tracklayers would be most advantageous. I really don't feel that the tracklayers should expect to gain all their knowledge at the exhibitors' and judges' expense. We all know about stewards' classes and stewards' clubs and how smoothly their rings are run. Just think how great it would be if our tracklayers were as well versed in the responsibilities that fall on them. Both exhibitors

and judges would be delighted! Every facet of the activity would benefit. And in addition, wouldn't it make for a happy tracking test chairman? It would be so much easier to get the next chairman and certainly would decrease the problems that almost always seem to plague the forthcoming event.

It is imperative that the tracklayers be the very best in the area. A long-awaited test is not the opportunity to "practice" on the judges and the trusting, nerve-wracked exhibitors. It isn't funny to hear the tracklayers, sometimes even the judges say, "Oh, that's too bad, but remember there will be another test shortly (probably 6 - 8 months) and if your name is drawn, you'll do fine." Or you may hear, "Oh well, there's always going to be a mistake or two..." I can easily accept a "Failed" track when my dog or I have actually been the one to fail, but I am not pleased to find out that it has been the fault of the tracklayer or even the judge which caused my dog to fail.

Remember that most the exhibitors have worked hard on practice tracks, and they are serious. To enter and prepare for the running of this test, it takes a great deal of time, money, and effort. Most tests in this area charge \$15 to \$45 for a TD entry and \$35 to \$50 for a TDX entry. If the test is held out of your area and you don't have a motor home, motels run from \$50 to \$75 per night, and of course food and adequate clothing for foul weather must be included. So as I said, it is vital that the test-giving club be well prepared for the event and make it a worthy venture for all.

## PEOPLE TRACKS

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