



COMMON SCENTS

September/October, 1992
Vol. 16., No. 5

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tracking Test
Sunday, November 1, 1992

// From the President's Desk: //

Well, fall is here, and we are in that busy time for Lenape - between the certification match and the trial. This year we had six dogs enter the certification match with two qualifying. It was fun being on the old fields around Lebanon Township's town hall and neighboring fields; however, I for one missed the sight markers in Jane's fields while laying track. The Test is approaching rapidly. This should be an exciting event this year, and I urge all club members to come out and support the teams who are trying to earn their titles.

This request for support extends to all club activities, not only the Test. This year we had to cancel the picnic when only 6 people indicated an interest in it. We realize that the picnic fell on the same day as a show on Long Island and that cut into some of the attendance. However the turnout would still have been low even if those who went the show did come. Tracking is different from other "dog" events. Tracking is not an easy title to obtain. Over the years I have noticed that the greatest growth in tracking abilities occurs when we work together in pairs or as a club to coach and encourage those trying to obtain their titles. My observation about people who track is that they are willing to go the "extra mile" to learn about their dogs and give them the experience tracking offers. For those who faithfully come out to as many Lenape events as possible, we say thank you. For those of you we rarely see, please think back about the reasons you first got involved with tracking and what you learned from others through their support and help. Plan to come out to one of our events and help pass on that knowledge.

Hope you all have found good fields, encounter good weather and keep on tracking!

John Etchells

NJFDC DIRECTORY OF BREEDERS

The applications for the Directory of Breeders are now available. If anyone is breeding or is willing to network with people who are, call John Etchells at 908-236-2423 to get an application. They must be returned before December 1 so that the listing can be approved by Club officials and forwarded to the Federation.

WHO'S WHO

OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

John Etchells
Martha Hamil
Ruby Szczepaniak
Linda Riley

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BOARD

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COMMITTEES

Tracking Experience Day
Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

Linda Riley
Pat Etchells
Pat Etchells

FOOTPRINTS THRU THE BRAMBLES

by Bob Brown

reprinted from the Official Belgian Tervuren Publication TNT
via Indian Nations Tracking Club *Nose News*, May, 1992

Guest Columnist: Ruth Harris

A dog who will sometimes track and sometimes won't is usually playing by the rules as he understands them. Too many times we give a dog mixed messages, and just because he guesses right part of the time, we start making excuses when he doesn't do what we know he is capable of.

Most problems on the track start with the beginning because the handler doesn't really understand the performance he is trying to elicit from his dog. If you never allow him to transfer his interest for the track to something else, he will quickly learn that this is one of the important rules of the game.

It's obvious that to prevent a dog from leaving the track, you must always know exactly where the track is. If you aren't on top of the track when you attempt to restart a dog, you could very well be pointing to where a rabbit just ran. We can never be sure there isn't another track there, but if there is always a people track there, the dog can quickly get the right message.

Any dog can become bored with the same old person track and will find the spot where a raccoon relieved himself last night much more interesting. Since you are always aware of where the track is, you can spot the dog's lapse immediately and have him back to business before he has time to consider what he might be missing.

If you get instant obedience when you command the dog to "track", "find it", etc., be quick to praise and go on. Any hesitation on his part should have you at his side, hand on collar or harness and a firm but gentle guiding back to the track. When you do this, you have made a correction, and consistency is the key in any type of training.

Imagine telling a dog to "sit" but then occasionally letting him have his way when he prefers to stand. He will probably obey a "sit" part of the time, but then do it his way when the notion strikes him.

This is no less true on the track when you stand by and beg him to return to the track while he satisfies his curiosity elsewhere. Repeat this a few times, and the dog learns just how much leeway he has.

If you blindly follow along just because he is fairly close to the track and going in the right direction, you may be giving the green light to "pretend tracking". If the dog just happens to find the article and you praise him, you can't blame him for thinking it's okay to search and find rather than track.

It is so easy for the dog to use his nose on a track that he will often do so for his own amusement. This doesn't mean he will always do it at your command. There are no short cuts in training. This will sometimes account for the dog who passes his certification with flying colors but doesn't make it off the first leg at a tracking trial.

Dogs do make honest mistakes. If he turns in the wrong direction while working a turn, you don't just stand while he wanders around until he loses interest. By helping him back on the track, you are showing him that the track is always to be found close by and not fifty yards away from where he lost it.

The only time I put my dog on a blind track is after he becomes dependable, and I do so to test myself rather than the dog.

Running flags and other bad habits on the track doesn't happen overnight. It is behavior that isn't spotted and corrected in training.

Anytime you aren't sure you are making progress, get help. Don't go blindly on your way until the mistakes are firmly ingrained in the dog's behavior.

If you are permissive enough to enjoy a "sometimes" tracking dog, then you can still have fun at a trial if you get drawn. However, if, like me, a blast from a whistle leaves you convinced that life isn't worth living, at least put the blame where it belongs most of the time. You are the trainer, and the dog only plays by the rules as he understands them.

MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have submitted applications for membership. They will become members 30 days after the mailing of this newsletter unless the secretary Ruby Szczepaniak, 11 West Main Street, High Bridge, NJ 08829 receives any letters of objection within 30 days.

Anna Burbank, 22 Darien, Village 2, New Hope, PA 18938 (215) 862-9833

Doberman

Collie

Toth, CD

Karl & Priscilla Gabosch, 735 Park Ave, Collingswood, NJ 08108 (609) 858-6227

Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Ch Blue Chip Faberge, TDI

Blue Chip Frida Kahl, CD, TDI

Ch Liberty's Susan B. Anthony, CDX, TDI

Ch Liberty's Abigail of Hai-On, CD

Djata, FCh

Papillon

Skorr's Joker, CDX

Andrea Williams, 2315 Timberline Dr, W. Deptford, NJ 08066, (609) 853-8642

Irish Wolfhound

Piper

Ch Diabar An't Sambein, CD

Meggie

Kildeckin Derila Megan, CD

Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen

Benjamin

Foghers Benjamin, CD



Long-time Club member Dan Horn passed away on Wednesday, October 7. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Janet and to all their children.

On a brighter note, BARBARA DRESSEL has two legs on Skimmer's CDX. The first was at the South Jersey cocker specialty, where her 194.5 won the class, and the second was at Palisades, with a 196.5 and third place.

Also in the cocker department, Pearl ETCHHELLS has her CDX after getting legs at Lehigh Valley, the specialty and Palisades.

9-month-old Tracy HAMIL picked up a 5-point major at the Maumee Valley Doberman specialty, then at the Nationals she was 4th in her futurity class and 2nd in the regular class.

Sammi, RONN & MAELIENE LOOS' rescue collie, earned her CDX in 4 trials. Because this was the sixth rescue dog trained by the Loos, Bob Self, the editor of *Front & Finish*, asked Maeliene to do an article on these special dogs. The two-part article appeared in the July and August issues of the publication. Maeliene said she has had a very nice response!

The MACKINNON's Skye has been amassing wins lately. Joanne handled him to WD and 2 points at Pocono Mt., then he went with a handler where he was WD at Hatboro, took 4th in Open at the Golden Specialty, picked up a point in Maryland and two RWDs. **FLASH.** Jezebel finished her CDX title at KC of South Jersey!

JUNE OSWALD writes that her Scamper has achieved his UD title with legs at Huntingdon Valley in '91, Valley Forge in '91 and Huntingdon Valley in '92. June wishes she could resume tracking, but the after effects of Lymes disease are making it difficult.

FRAN WILMETH is making a wonderful recovery. She's resuming her dog activities on a limited basis, and we hope to have her make a brief appearance at our test.

TRACKLAYER CERTIFICATION

In late August, five members and members-to-be learned to make maps and identify sight markers, measured paces, answered rule book questions, found the glove, and are now Lenape certified tracklayers. Joining the sixteen previously certified Lenape members are: Anna Burbank, Karl P. Gabosch, Joanne MacKinnon, Linda A. McManemy, and Andrea Williams

CERTIFICATION MATCH

Our annual match is now history. Judges Sue Dolbin and Hope Meaker and tracklayers John Etchells, Peg Forte, Karl Gabosch, Joanne MacKinnon and Dot Vail plotted tracks on Saturday, and the following day six dogs gave it a try. The first two dogs just weren't in the mood for tracking that day. Then Vicky Brown's Shepherd Allie made a valiant effort but got off course on the last leg. A Belgian Tervuren who was previously certified showed us how it was done on Track Four. Ruth Brader and Poodle Deucle made it more than halfway before the gremlins took over. The final runner was Vicky Brown's young GSD Dolf, and he finished the day on a high note by finding the glove and earning four certification slips!

AKC CANINE CONNECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- **What's new?**

On 9-15-92, the AKC established a national Breeder Referral Program to help potential dog owners find dog breeders within their geographic area. Callers dialing **1-900-407-PUPS (7877)** will obtain the name of a local dog club's Breeder Referral Representative, who can supply the dog buyer with a list of sources.

For more information on the Breeder Referral Program, call the Public Relations Department at (212) 696-8265.

- **AKC Board votes to revise eligibility requirements to hold all-breed shows in 1993**

Clubs now have the option of sponsoring an AKC sanctioned match or the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test (in addition to the two educational activities they select) to fulfill their requirements to host an all-breed show. This revision is part of an ongoing effort to show the public the proactive measures that the AKC and local clubs are taking to educate the public on responsible dog ownership.

- **Public Education Update**

Over 95 television stations across the country have already committed to airing AKC's Public Service Announcements (PSAs). The PECs have done a terrific job getting the PSAs to their local TV and cable stations. Keep up the good work! And remember, these PSAs are timeless, so it's never too late to help spread the word on responsible dog ownership in your community. For copies of the PSAs call (212) 696-8356.

The AKC "Every Dog Deserves" calendar is a big hit. Over 4,000 have been distributed by the AKC and its affiliated clubs. We encourage clubs to order calendars and help spread the word about responsible dog ownership. To order calendars, contact AKC Customer Service at (919) 233-9767.

The Public Education Department is dedicating 1993 to children's education. The Children's Education Program will be test-marketed in 7 states during the 1992-1993 school year. Each participating school will receive a "Best Friends" kit that includes a video, poster, and lesson planner. After the program is tested it will be offered nationally. Other areas in development are a children's newsletter and another AKC bookmark.

- **Canine Legislation**

H.R. 2407 - A.K.A. The Animal Enterprise Protection Act of 1992 became law on 8-26-92. We would like to thank all of you for your tremendous efforts and support of this important bill.

In Minnesota, a three-judge panel of the first state appellate court ruled that contact between a dog and an injured person is not needed to make the dog's owner liable for the injuries. This ruling involved two cases in which men were frightened by running dogs and fell while attempting to avoid the dogs, thus injuring themselves. In both cases, the injured parties were awarded thousands of dollars in damages. This big question is now how this decision will affect homeowners insurance, especially for those people who own dogs.