

COMMON SCENTS

November/December, 1992

Vol. 16., No. 6



Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

TENTATIVE DATES TO REMEMBER

Lehigh Valley KC's Canine Learning Experience Day
Saturday, January 30, 1993

Nominations Meeting
Friday, February 5, 1993
Friday, February 12, 1993 (snow date)

HVTC's John Barnard Seminar
Saturday & Sunday, March 27 & 28, 1993

Annual Dinner
Saturday, April 3, 1993

T.E.D.
Saturday, May 1, 1993

Certification Match/Tracklayer Certification/Annual Picnic
Sunday, September 26, 1993

Tracking Test
Sunday, November 7, 1993

WHO'S WHO

OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

John Etchells
Martha Hamil
Ruby Szczepaniak
Linda Riley

908-236-2423
908-846-5333
908-638-8904
908-730-7717

BOARD

Barbara Dressel
Peg Forte
Ronn Loos
Hope Meaker
Fran Wilmeth

201-288-3755
908-832-7231
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908-995-2276
215-862-2453

COMMITTEES

Tracking Experience Day
Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

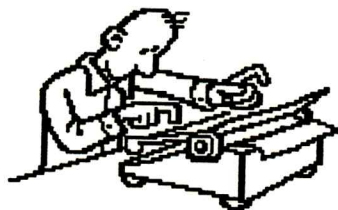
Linda Riley

Pat Etchells

Notice: Address change for our treasurer:

Linda Riley

PO Box 319, Pittstown, NJ 08867
(908) 730-7717



From the President's Desk:

Another busy tracking year is rapidly drawing to a close, and Lenape should be proud of its accomplishments. We pulled off another successful TED, certification match and tracking test. We have drawn many new enthusiastic trackers into our midst, and we have encouraged several of our long-time members to get out with new dogs. This was all possible because of the support of the membership, and I thank you all.

Next year should be just as busy. We have signed up to have a booth at the Lehigh Valley KC's Canine Learning Experience in Allentown on January 30. If anyone wants to assist in manning it, give me a call at (908) 236-2423. Princeton's trial is no longer on the same date, so obedience-oriented members should not have a conflict.

On February 5 we will be having our nominations meeting at the MacKinnon's home, and the tentative program is the showing of a tape on tracking. The awards dinner will be April 3 at a different restaurant than before. Full details on both these events will be in future newsletters, but mark your calendars now.

TED is on May 1. Linda Riley has graciously agreed to be the contact person again, and we will be looking to the entire membership for its usual support. A committee has been formed to revise the curriculum slightly. We will still be basing our program on Johnson's method, but we be making such changes as substituting "baby" steps for double laid beginning tracks, introducing turns earlier, and catching the errors some astute TED participants brought to our attention this summer. If you have any thoughts on the subject, please let Hope Meaker know. (908) 995-2276. As far as follow-ups are concerned, we are going to try a new system whereby members pledge at the beginning to help at a specific follow-up. This should enable us to plan better, get fresh insights and take the burden off the same people.

The Board looked at our fall calendar and realized that 1992 had too many events. Therefore, we are combining several events on our normal certification match date. After the dogs are done, we will make the same fields available to people who want to become certified tracklayers. And we will hold the potluck picnic at the same time. Hopefully more people will be able to make this one event. As far as the test is concerned, we hope to be returning to the Lebanon Township fields. Peg has some leads on additional land, so we are contemplating offering more tracks.

A final note directed especially to New Jersey members. You might want to tell your veterinarians and suppliers to keep the 1991-1992 NJFDC Breeders Directory for supplemental listings even after the new edition is out. Several clubs have major misgivings about the recommendation procedures and the Code of Ethics - to the extent that some have resigned from the Federation and others are refusing to submit listings.

I hope everyone has a great Holiday season. Then once the hectic pace of life calms down, think about tracking. There are a lot of advantages to getting out in the winter!!!

John Etchells

MEMBERSHIP

The following person has submitted an application for membership. She will become a member 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.

Phyllis Broderick, RD 2 Box 136, Oxford, NJ 07863 (908) 453-2511
English Springer Spaniels

15" Beagle

Whimsy's Cast-A-Spell, Am/Can UD, CGC
Twin Oak's September Sandpiper, Am/Can UD

Am/Can Ch Pin Oak's Tri Meon For Size, Am/Can CDX



BARBARA DRESSEL has finished **Skimmer's** CDX. She got a 197.5 and HIT at the Long Island Cocker Specialty, then she went all out and got a 199 and HIT at Ulster! At the Upstate Cocker Specialty she was also HIT, and she won Open A at Morris Hills with a 196.5. She also got three more firsts at the Springfield shows.

Tracy, MARTY HAMIL's 11-month -old Dobie, finished her Canadian championship in her first three shows!

MARION RAPP writes ecstatically that her Pembroke Welsh Corgi **Windsor** got his CD at Newton Kennel Club, finishing fourth in his class!

1992 Test

by Pat Etchells

We now have our third tracking test under our belt, and everything went smoothly. Although plotting day was cold and damp - and the forecast for Sunday had been the same - the sun did make an appearance and brightened the spirits of our six competitors and large gallery.

Our new facilities turned out to be adequate in every way. Everyone appreciated the warm municipal building which served as headquarters, and all the fields except one had excellent visibility for spectators

The first track was drawn by a Pembroke Corgi from Rhode Island, and she found the track easy to follow and started the day out with a success. Linda Riley took Molly off the shelf for a try at the second track, but it was not Molly's day. The third track was also a pass - an emphatic performance by a German Shorthaired Pointer from Maryland. An English Springer raced off to a good start for the fourth track, but had difficulty homing in on the first turn. The fifth track showed us all why we track with our friends. Vicky Brown was away on a judging assignment but wanted to support our test, so her usual tracklayer Edie Braginton found herself on the end of German Shepherd **Dolf's** line - AND THEY PASSED to earn his "T"! Finally a PBGV didn't really feel like tracking on the sixth track. And the two dogs trying to certify on the alternate and the absentee's track were unsuccessful.

A big thanks goes out to all the people who helped make the day a huge success. Tracklayers Anna Burbank, Peg Forte, Marty Hamil, Dot Vail, John and I spent two days getting our exercise in the fields. Joanne and Ralph MacKinnon, Hope Meaker, Linda Riley, and Fran Wilmeth helped entertain our judges. Ruby Szczepaniak managed a fine kitchen and stirred up some good chili. And the gallery was impressive, including supporters Ruth Brader, Priscilla & Karl Gabosch, Ronn Loos and Christie Shore & Tom Kuligowski.

Are You One of These

reprinted from the Greater Kansas City DTC Newsletter
via Midwest Tracking Association September, 1991 newsletter
reprinted from the Barkette via Canine Courier via Mound City Dog Tales, etc.

Are you one of those whose dog will never win top dog... or first place or even second? Maybe on a good day, when you're at your best and the entries are low, you might stand in the winner's circle for a fourth place?

Are you one of those whose dog takes three weeks to learn what everyone else in the class took one week to learn? But when he finally does perform on the third week (even if he doesn't do it perfectly), you are so proud of him that you buy him a T-bone steak on the way home?

Are you one of those who listens politely to other people talk about their trophies? And do you sympathize when their dog goofs and only makes a 194, even though you know your best score was never as good as their worst?

Are you one of those who loves to work with your dog just because it's fun to be with him? And it's partly fun because you find your dog standing with his lead in his mouth, wanting to go to work, nudging, whining and begging when four hours ago he ran away in the ring and you decided on the three hour drive home that this sport wasn't for you?

Are you one of those whose dog doesn't seem to care if he's not a winner in the ring because he's a winner in your eyes every day? And although not a celebrity in the dog circles, to your friends, relatives and neighbors, your dog is akin to Lassie because he sits still for at least thirty seconds when you tell him to stay.

If you are, you understand that it is really a worthwhile accomplishment to have obedience titles. It's worthwhile whether you are fortunate enough to collect trophies along the way or whether you collect none. It's worthwhile whether you qualify in the first three shows or it takes thirteen. It's worthwhile to you for the same reason it's worthwhile to everyone: because it's something you and your dog accomplish TOGETHER!

Training Tips

by Mike Clemens

Reprinted from *The Hudson Valley Tracker*, December, 1991/January, 1992

With the winter months upon us, we as handlers have to take advantage of the situation and get out and track. Tracking during the winter has many advantages over tracking at other times of the year. One of the most important is that the temperature is conducive to the dogs working for a longer period of time. During the heat of summer you will see tracking dogs with tongues hung low and heavier breathing. With the lack of heat your dog can concentrate on the track with a scenting ability that has less interference from trying to cool off at the same time.

With frozen ground we also have diminished conflicting scents. Decaying matter has been put on hold until the spring. What we end up with in winter is a much purer scent for the dog to concentrate on.

With winter we have snow, which leads us to see exactly where we have walked. Take advantage of this. Do not go under the assumption that the dog is visualizing and not scenting. Maybe they are, but they are also picking up a scent as they go along. If we find a snowy area that already has been walked upon by other people, all the better. Here we can actually see the dog not visualize but scenting. In beginning tracking we will be right with the dog and make sure that conflicting tracks are not a problem by showing which footsteps have the right scent. It is important that we do not wait for decisions. As the dog progresses we will allow more time for decisions, but remain close to help out as soon as the need arises.

It is amazing seeing new tracking people coming back to the starting point after laying a track in snow and seeing exactly how badly they walk in a straight line. We will get into tracklaying in a future article, but maybe after seeing those curved and zigzag tracks, the handler will concentrate on laying a straight track, knowing how important it is to show a dog in trouble exactly where the track is.

I like starting turns on snow. Here we know exactly where the turns are, and the visual effect is a good incentive. Again, as in all beginning tracking, stay right with the dog and help him out. With knowing exactly where the turn is, you can coordinate verbal help more effectively. Remember, timing is all important.

Don't be turned off by the cold. Be out and work your dog. Remember, April is just around the corner.

Beware of the Cold

Reprinted from the Mohonk Preserve, Winter, 1992
via *The Hudson Valley Tracker*, November/December, 1992

If you plan to be out in the woods in cooler weather, you should take precautions against hypothermia, a dangerous cold injury that occurs when your body cannot produce as much heat as it loses. A problem can occur even at such a relatively mild temperature as 50° if you are tired or wet. When cold reaches the brain, your body's core temperature drops, and if not halted immediately, severe symptoms can develop such as lack of judgment, stumbling, difficulty speaking, lethargy, and finally unconsciousness.

Take precautions:

- Wear a hat and mittens to prevent heat loss
- Wear several thin layers (not one thick) of wool or synthetic material (avoid cotton)
- Carry a windbreaker, mylar "space" blanket and change of wool socks for wet feet
- Bring a snack and thermos with a hot beverage
- Go with a friend and head back well before dark
- Let someone responsible know where you're going and when you're due back



And remember your four-legged friend will be affected by the cold as well, especially if he or she is an inside pet. Take precautions to protect them as well.

John Barnard Seminar

The Hudson Valley Tracking Club is hosting a seminar by the AKC's Tracking Field Director John Barnard on Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28, 1993, in Albany, NY. Topics of discussion include AKC rules, what is guiding, DOs and DON'Ts in laying and running a regulation track, terrain and climate conditions, scent problems, and the future of tracking. The cost is \$65 per person for both days. Contact Gail Fowler, RD #5, Box 51, Wynantskill, NY 12198.