



COMMON SCENTS

March/April, 1993
Vol. 17., No. 2

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

TENTATIVE DATES TO REMEMBER

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

OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

BOARD

COMMITTEES

Tracking Experience Day
Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

WHO'S WHO

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Peg Forte 908-832-7231
Ronn Loos 908-234-0507
Hope Meaker 908-995-2276
Fran Wilmeth 215-862-2453

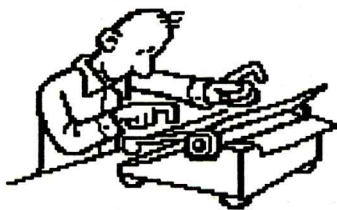
Linda Riley
Dot Vail 201-947-1835
Pat Etchells

WARES FOR ORDER

Several people have expressed an interest in our member tee and sweat shirts. Get in touch with Peg Forte at (908) 832-7231 and let her know what you want. When we reach the minimum order of 12 garments, we can get them.

The Sandy Ganz videotape can be obtained at a discount if we order a dozen. If you are interested, call Linda Riley at (908) 730-7717.

And we will be getting harnesses for TED. If anyone wants us to order a custom color (there are about 25 available), call Pat Etchells (908) 236-2423 or see her at the dinner.



From the President's Desk:

The fact that the snow on the ground is being washed away by sleet is not terribly indicative that Spring is approaching, but a look at the calendar assures one that it is not too far away. And with its arrival comes an influx of tracking activities.

Individually the advent of Spring will enable us to get our own dogs back out into the fields. But Club activities are also picking up. Our annual dinner is quickly approaching, and everyone is encouraged to get the forms back to Pat Paulding immediately. We are returning to the Holiday Inn because it is easy to get to, reasonable, and reportedly the new chef is doing a good job.

TED is coming up on May 1, and already it is almost halfway filled. We are very excited about this year's program. Hope, Fran and Linda have overhauled the format somewhat, and we are offering an addendum to Johnson's booklet. Basically, we will be eliminating the double laid beginning tracks, having more food drops for starting dogs, and introducing turns and aging earlier. These changes partly come from Sandy Ganz's videotape and book and partly from trial and error on the part of our members. As always, we will be looking to the membership for major support of this event. You WILL be asked to help out - whether as a group leader or assistant, food provider, wares seller, or good will ambassador. Remember, TED is what keeps our Club solvent - and we can't continue to have matches and tests without its success.

Speaking of matches and tests, Anna Burbank has done a great job in calling long lists of judges, and we are happy to report that our official panels are complete. Mike Clemens and Sue Dolbin will be teaming up again for our test, and we are optimistic that Peg will indeed be able to sweet talk enough local farmers to allow us to offer 12 tracks. As far as the match is concerned, Salle Crooks will be the AKC judge who can certify passers. We will still need a member to be the second judge. If anyone would like the experience, let me know. Salle was a very informative and pleasant judge to lay tracks for when we had her at our first test, and whoever works with her will gain a lot of tracklaying insight.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the dinner and at TED!

John Etchells



GEORGE CALVERLEY has a new puppy named **Kenna**, who is the daughter of his Weimaraner **Max**.

On a sad note, JUNE OSWALD writes of the death of her Lab **Chipper** at the age of 13 years. He was the first TDX dog at Philadelphia and Suburban Dog Training Clubs. "Lenape Tracking Club and its members had much to do with building a good tracking foundation for Chipper and me. He earned his TD and his TDX at his first trials. Thank you, members, for a wonderful experience." Helping to fill the void in June and **Scamper's** life now is a black Lab puppy named **Cloudy**.

Tracking Test Protocol

by Richard Knapp

reprinted from The Tracking Club of Central Florida's *Cross Tracks*, February, 1993

A few years ago I wrote an article on how to handle a dog at a Tracking Test. At a recent Test, an exhibitor asked about the protocol for entrants. It is hard enough to suggest to someone how they should handle their dog, harder still to tell people how they should act ... and I won't fall into that trap. I can tell new trackers and some past trackers some things about Tests today that they might not know, and they can decide on their own Test Protocol.

First of all, most people who organize a Test think of it as an "Event" (politically correct wording?). The Test is a party, gathering of friends, a celebration of the sport and not a sterile, cold blooded happening associated with the word "TEST."

Tracking is a nonprofit event for everyone involved in it. Clubs, judges, workers, and entrants normally all lose money. That sounds negative, doesn't it? Let's just say that they all invest in the sport, those that participate the most and enjoy themselves reap great non-financial rewards.

Those working for the entrants do so for the pleasure of it. Their profit is the camaraderie, knowledge of the sport gained, the enjoyment of watching good tracking, and lessons learned from those that pass or fail.

Clubs service the sport and entrants support the clubs, a 50/50 proposition. Entrants, organizers, judges all need each other and everyone should try to enjoy and respect one another. If entrants just showed up at Tests, ran their dogs and left, the sport would soon die a sad death. By being a participant at a Test, and not just an entrant, you might find that the event is more important than any one person, pass or fail.

The "Rule Book" may say that a Test is to evaluate the scenting ability of your dog, but in reality it is a nonprofit noncompetitive gathering of people with a common interest working together for one another's benefit. Conduct yourself accordingly.

OK, perhaps a few examples are needed.

1. Certification - You must have one to enter a Test, so it is done at the judge's convenience, not yours. Pass or fail it, thank the judge for his/her time.
2. Type your entry form to make things easier on the Test Secretary.
3. If you cannot make the Test, call the Secretary so an alternate can be called and so the club doesn't have to go through extra work.
4. If there is a pre-test dinner, try to attend. You might have fun, meet new people, and maybe even learn something.
5. Be at the draw a little early so that everyone knows you are there and so they don't have to go looking for you.
6. Don't complain about site conditions. Sites can be hard to come by, and this may be the only one available. If you have a good tracking dog, you'll pass at most every site.
7. Try to watch all entrants before and after you, congratulate and commiserate with them - do for them what you would like done for you.
8. After you pass, be happy! The happier you are, the happier everyone else will be.
9. If you fail, don't be too upset - no dog is perfect. The judges, tracklayer, and everyone else want to see everyone pass, and they will already be sad for you.
10. Don't blame your failure on anyone or anything; it just won't help.
11. If you fail, you may ask to finish a track, but cannot demand it. The judges and tracklayer will do what they can for you subject to conditions and when the next dog is to run.

12. If you want comments about your tracking, wait until after the Test. If you ask, be willing to accept comments you may not like.
13. Stay as long as you can and participate in post test activities. Try to enjoy the total event experience.
14. Be sure to thank everyone for all their work.

Training Tips

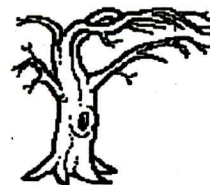
by Mike Clemens

reprinted from *The Hudson Valley Tracker*, March/April, 1993

I want to talk about a recurring problem. The problem is lack of foresight in planning the laying of a track. I've seen tracklayers end up miles from where they started. Or tracklayers ending a track in the opposite direction of an easy exit. You need to decide "Where am I going to end up?" before starting to lay a track. After receiving the information on the type of track that is to be laid, spend time deciding how you want to lay it out in the space provided. Get out of the mode of just walking out into the field. You need to start using foresight.



When planning a track, look at the field; I mean really look at it. Look at all the landmarks. Draw a map in your head, or better still, draw a map on a piece of paper. One of the primary considerations in tracklaying is that this is not an endurance test. Try to end the track where you won't have to hike back, preferably near a road. Work on making the tracks more compact where the ending point will not be miles from the start. Don't end the track away from exits, where you have to circle around existing tracks.



On a similar note, to progress in tracklaying ability, tracklayers should start weaning themselves away from carry-along markers, such as flags and colored clothespins. These become a crutch. The one things that a real confident tracklayer carries on a track are articles and a clipboard with paper and pencil. Carry-along markers are sometimes a necessity when there is a problem determining natural markers, but you should be careful not to rely on them. If you must use carry-along markers, lay tracks that you yourself will walk at a later time. Learn to start reading what is already there and start carrying a clipboard along with you.

Tracklaying should not be a trying experience. All it takes is a little foresight and concentration on what is there. Work at it and you will progress. Work on your confidence to remember what is there and how the track fits in. Reach a level where you can say, "I know what I am doing laying track!"

You Didn't Tell Me Tracking Was Like This

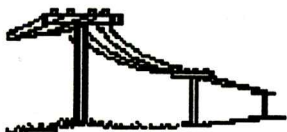
by Pat Norris

From *Front and Finish* via *The Hudson Valley Tracker*, April/May, 1992

Folks who are addicted to the sport of tracking like to get other people hooked on it too. So they don't always tell the whole story about events in the tracking field. You hear glowing reports about the elation that results from a track well run. In fairness, let me tell you about some other occurrences. Your friends won't tell you

- that there are little stickers growing in the fields that can become imbedded in your thighs and stay there for a couple of weeks
- that you could jump across a three foot wide creek successfully, only to lose your balance and fall in backwards

- that you could track through some saplings and then discover that a lens had been poked out of your glasses
- that after you lay tracks, it could snow and cover up all your articles and many of your landmarks
- that after you have trained for years, your old superb tracking pal might not get drawn for a TDX test
- that when you try to squeeze in a tracking session on a busy day, your dog will take 55 minutes to complete a track that should have taken 5 minutes
- that your tracking line can become hopelessly entangled in 15 seconds and that it will take 15 minutes to undo the knots
- that you can lay a track in the afternoon, and it can get dark before you finish running it
- that your bottom can get very muddy sliding down a steep embankment on a TDX track
- that you lose your car keys in the tracking field, and your wonderful tracking dog might not be able to find them
- that the \$149.00 boots, guaranteed waterproof and warm, encase cold, clammy, miserable feet



- that your best friend (read husband, wife, pal, whatever) will adamantly tell you that the track goes toward the double telephone poles while your four-footed friend will tell you it goes toward a single one
- that sometimes an exhibitor arrives at a test 3 minutes after the draw has taken place and his/her track has been granted to an alternate

- that many times alternates drive miles in hopes that there will be a vacated slot in a test even though there rarely is
- that your dog may find an article that you weren't looking for - like a headless rabbit
- that at a tracking test an inexperienced tracklayer could take a side trip into the woods to relieve himself then return to the track causing your dog to fail
- that varmints and birds in the fields might eat all the food drops that you left on the training track
- that a jogger could pick up the billfold you left for the last article on the track
- that the last practice track you run just before a test is a disaster with your pooch forgetting why you put that harness on him
- that the date of the Specialty tracking test that you have been aiming toward for so long falls on the same day as your son's high school graduation
- that if your pal has never taken a cross track, he might do it at a test
- that some birds sound eerily like a judge's whistle
- that judges who own sporting dogs have obscenely loud whistles
- that even an experienced tracklayer can miss a flag on a test track
- that when one leg of all the tracks in a test goes right by a lake, the dog who loves water most will draw that one
- that your canine chum will learn to send you on a guilt trip on the days that you do not take him tracking



Your tracking friends probably won't tell you these things, but you will discover them for yourself. If you are hooked, it won't matter. The rewards are so great, the exhilaration so boundless that you will be out there again tomorrow. See you in the field.