

COMMON SCENTS

September/October, 1993
Vol. 17., No. 5

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

TENTATIVE DATES TO REMEMBER

Tracking Test
Sunday, November 7, 1993

OFFICERS		WHO'S WHO	
President		John Etchells	908-236-2423
Vice President		Martha Hamil	908-846-5333
Secretary		Anna Burbank	215-862-9833
Treasurer		Linda Riley	908-730-7717
BOARD			
		Peg Forte	908-832-7231
		Ronn Loos	908-234-0507
		Hope Meaker	908-995-2276
		Dot Vail	201-947-1835
		Fran Wilmeth	215-862-2453
COMMITTEES			
Tracking Experience Day		Linda Riley	
Tracking Test Secretary		Dot Vail	
Newsletter		Pat Etchells	



Tidbits



PAT BLAKE writes that **Madge** passed her CGC in December. **Holly** got her All-American CD and also got her VCC and passed her USTTA (temperament test).

EDIE BRAGINTON's Weimaraner **Nova** got her Canadian CD with placements and picked up 3 points and went Group 4 in Canada. Edie has now moved to upstate NY (205A East Schodack Rd., Schodack, NY 12123), but still plans to come down and visit.

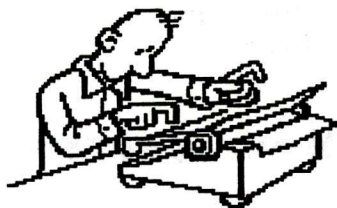
Also in Canada, VICKY BROWN's GSD **Dolf** got his CD, qualifying in 6 trials and receiving 4 placements.

BARBARA DRESSEL's **Skimmer** earned the first leg on her UD at the South Jersey Cocker specialty with a 196. She was also HIT and High Combined due to a 197 in Open B.

Cocker **Robin** ETHELLS got her CD with legs at Newton, Somerset Hills and Pocono Mountain.

FRAN WILMETH is feeling better, is now able to drive, and hopefully she'll soon have enough energy to come to our events. She sends her heartfelt thanks to all the members who sent her cards and notes of encouragement.

Note - Send your news to Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

We've survived another certification match (report elsewhere). And I extend a big thank you to all the members who came out and helped make the day such a success. Now, we have to look forward to the test. And, again, I am back on the bandwagon, begging for support.

We need help, especially with tracklaying. We have advertised twelve tracks. Three of our "old faithful" tracklayers won't

be available because of family commitments, and if our dog makes the draw, Pat can't lay track and my participation will be limited. We have 21 certified tracklayers as of now. We'd be willing to meet any other members who want to certify in a park sometime in the next month. We need those stinky feet! Call me at (908) 236-2423 if your conscience dictates. And call Priscilla Gabosch with pledges of food for Sunday (609) 858-6227.

I've kept this brief, so you can use the time you usually spend reading my message to make the phone calls.

Happy Tracking.

John Etchells

MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have submitted application for membership. They will become members 30 days after the mailing of this newsletter unless the secretary Anna Burbank, 22 Darien - Village 2, New Hope PA 18938 receives any letters of objection within 30 days.

Mark Gross, 4 Meadow Way, Kintnersville, PA 18930 (215) 847-2675

Australian Shepherds

Sponsors - Edith Braginton & Pat Etchells

Wendell Larsen, 96 Tammany Rd., Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972 (215) 294-9216

German Shepherds

Kevi Abigail's Kyle v. Donnerwetter, Am/Can CD

Shani Carwens Tammany Shani

Gita Zelhaus's Gita Am/Can UD, UKC CDX

Sponsors - Pat Etchells & Linda Riley

HOLIDAY CAUTION LIST

condensed from AKC's PEC Information Sheet

Halloween

- Caution adolescents not to use Halloween as an excuse to harass the neighborhood dog. Scared dogs may bite because they want to protect their property.
- Do not give the dog any treats. Their systems are not adapted for the high sugar content.
- Walk your dog early on Halloween night and hold the dog firmly on the leash, as it may be distracted or scared easily. Dogs don't understand masks, and can be overwhelmed by shrieking children.



MATCH REPORT

By Pat Etchells

Our September 26 fun match turned out to be a real learning experience for the Club, tracklayers, handlers and dogs.

When our judge Salle Crooks realized that it was a fun match for members, TED participants and friends, she asked whether we would like to have it run as a seminar, where she could do some teaching in addition to certifying. The tracklayers on Saturday and later the entrants on Sunday all thought this was a great idea. (The spectators may have had second thoughts, however, because of the time it took...).

To add interest, Salle tried to not plot textbook tracks but to introduce many challenges that one might run into - such as plotting a little too close to the edges, having legs too short, making acute turns, going in illogical directions, not being too concerned over where the tracklayer exited the field, and as it turned out, having a track well over two hours old. She would base her certifications on how the dogs handled the challenges and whether they could recover with minor assistance rather than on a strict pass/fail basis.

Saturday night brought tremendous downpours, and the forecast for Sunday was not too optimistic, but ten of the eleven entered dogs showed up. The rain didn't really materialize, and the sun even peeked out later.

The first two dogs did not pass, but their owners got a great deal of personal instruction, and then the gallery was briefed on the comments Salle had made. The third dog, my Cocker Robin, had the track older than two hours, but she never quit, and with a little hint of "back up", found the legs and the glove and certified. Then a Labrador owned by a non-member certified with minor coaching, the fifth dog failed, and we broke for lunch.

Following a delicious meal compliments of a number of Lenape members and friends, two more tracks were plotted in new fields. Hope Meaker put Flat-Coat Derby in the no-show's place, and they did an enthusiastic job (only getting confused where the resident dog had just played in the field) and certified. A TD dog looking for TDX-type conditions which was placed on a field with cover which Salle deemed too difficult for a novice dog did not pass.

Two tracks were laid in a new field which will be great after the alfalfa is cut - but we were limited to a 45 yd x 750 yd strip. A non-member Basset Hound (already certified) figured out that we laid her a step track, did enough of each leg to ascertain direction, cut the corner to the next leg, and found the glove. (By definition this dog passed, and we learned the downside of step tracks!) The following two dogs did not pass. Then a German Wirehaired Pointer non-member dog, also previously certified, gave us a stunning performance on the last track. And just before the sun went down, our match was over.

A lot of people helped to make this day a success. Tracklayers were Anna Burbank, Peg Forte, Hope Meaker, Dot Vail and John and I. Peg Forte and her husband provided hospitality for our judge, even waiting up for her arrival at 3:00 a.m. on Saturday morning!. Gerry Sullivan ran a great kitchen and Ralph MacKinnon flipped some yummy hamburgers. Also supporting the effort were Ruth Brader, Vicky Brown, Marty Hamil, Wendell Larsen, Joanne MacKinnon, Linda McManemy, Linda Riley, and Martha Windisch.

Most present agree that this was a very useful format. It would obviously have been better with fewer dogs, since we never did have time to do the tracklayer certification part of the program. But we did get to test our new fields, and everyone who listened to Salle gained from her expertise.

TRACKING IN ALL KINDS OF WEATHER

by W. H. Morrison

reprinted from Tracking Club of Central Florida's *Cross Tracks*, September, 1992

So you want to become a tracking judge. Tracking judges are a strange lot. These folk must enjoy walking in the rain 6 to 8 hours while plotting tracks. Must be non-allergic to poison ivy, bug bites and bee stings. Fearless when facing snakes and angry bulls. Agile enough to hop over or crawl under barbed wire fences with no more than one snag. Able to leap over creeks getting only one foot wet and quick enough to dodge flying branches. They must be immune to colds, frost bite, fatigue and sunburn. Fortunately one judge does not have to shoulder this great responsibility alone. It takes two of these remarkable individuals to judge a tracking test.

Let's look at a typical (or maybe not so typical) tracking assignment. Six months or so ahead of time Old Factory KC calls and asks you to judge their upcoming TD/TDX test. Your calendar is open, and you pencil in the date. You make your reservations far enough ahead of time to save the club some money. An early departure from home Friday morning assures you enough time to get to the airport except for the construction which causes you to miss your flight. A quick call to a club officer assures someone to meet your 1:00 a.m. arrival. By 2 you are at the motel, one bag missing, and ready for bed dreading that 7:30 wake-up call. By 9:00 a.m. you're at the fields and ready for a full day's work. The weather is cool but due to warm up later in the morning and no sign of rain. A nice forecast from the rain you have been watching on the late news that this area has had for the past two weeks.

"Great, everyone is here on time ready to plot. What's that you say? Because of the rain and the condition of the roads we must walk two miles to the first field? Oh well, only a drop in the bucket compared to what we'll have to walk to plot these tracks. Hum. These roads are a mess. Wonder how we'll get the dogs in tomorrow."

"Well, that wasn't so bad. This field looks great. This shouldn't take too long ... What's that, winter wheat? Well, on to the first field. Are you sure that was only two miles to the first field?"

The first three tracks are rather uneventful and by 11:00 we're part of the way home. It's warmed to the 80s, everyone is in good spirits, and I've only lost one pencil. We've seen a few cows and a horse or two in separate fields - nothing that should cause any problems. Another track or two, and we'll break for lunch.

"Now this is a nice field, kinda stuck back here off the road. What's that over there? Looks like a couple having a picnic on a nice warm spring day. Hey, she doesn't have anything on and he ... I don't think they have seen us yet. Let's come back to this field later ... this is embarrassing!"

"Getting a little cloudy. Wasn't supposed to, although it looks as if it will clear up. Where do we go from here? Back to the other side of the highway? Are you sure it was only two miles to the first field?"

"These fields are all together. We should be able to knock these off in no time."

"Great, it's beginning to rain. Glad I brought my rain suit along. Rats, I brought the wrong one. This one leaks!"

After finishing up the next two tracks, we're ready to plot the last track. Unfortunately, we are going to end up in the back of the field, and the club has decided to take a car up the dirt road and pick us up. As might be expected, the car gets stuck and we get covered with mud as we try to push it out.

"Well, we'll tell the exhibitor to ignore the car in the middle of the field. I believe it's getting colder. Yet, it sure is. I can see the snow! I sure hope the airline got my other suitcase to the motel. I'll need some dry clothes for tomorrow."

Time for a quick supper at the trial chairman's home then off to the motel to work on books.

"Boy, am I glad to be inside. Look at it snow! They say that they have never had snow this late in the spring. Let's put another log on the fire."

"This meal was great, and boy does that dessert look good. Yea, I hear you, poison the judges. Those tracks weren't that bad."

"I'll meet you in your room and we'll finish up the books. My other bag is here and I'll get some dry clothes on."

"Here is my #5. You know, I don't feel so good. Pardon me for a moment while I use your bathroom. I'm going to bed. I don't think she was kidding about poisoning the judges. You had some of that dessert didn't you? Feel okay?"

"A good night's sleep did wonders. Good grief, look at the snow! Hope everyone makes it to the club house."

"Well, all the tracklayers are here, and thank goodness it froze and we can drive to the fields. Hey, where are the flags? This is the first track isn't it? Oh no, the cows are out and have knocked down most of the flags on this track. Here, use my map and if you have any problems, don't say a word to anyone and report to me, the other judge or the test chairman first. We'll then decide what to do. Yes, I know the landmarks are covered with snow. Just do the best you can."

"That didn't go so bad. Only left one flag, did you? We'll tell the exhibitor to ignore any flags in the field."

"You know, it took a while, but the dog did a nice job getting started in spite of the cows camping out around the start flag. She made that first turn and crossed the road nicely, but it looks as if she is going off. Do you want to blow the whistle or shall I? Yes, you can re-start your dog, but she has already failed. What's that? You knew she was off because you could see the track? You're not supposed to tell the judge that. Let's get ready to walk the next track."

"Have any problems? Did you leave another article in place of the one you lost? Good, that should do. I once had some panty hose as an article. I guess a bra will do just as well. It is a personal article of the tracklayer. We appreciate the sacrifice."

"This dog looks like he knows what he's doing. No problem with those turns. Congratulations on your T. I'll go watch the next track being walked if you want to talk with her for a moment. Hey, watch it? Are you all right. It doesn't look too bad. Hope that's not your writing hand the dog bit while you were petting him."

Most clubs have a big feed after the test, and this club is no different. One club had so many coming to the tests just for the meal that they had to start selling meal tickets.

"Sorry we didn't have more to pass today, but we had some dogs that really worked well and failed with class. I want to thank you folks who were out yesterday and today in spite of the weather. It could not have been possible without you. Questions? How much do we get paid for this? You've got to be kidding."

"Finally at the airport, and boy, am I tired. Let's see, DL 610 leaving at 6:30. Hum, 6:20 and there is no one at the gate. Better check that flight again. Oh no, DL 630 leaving at 6:10! Maybe I can get on the next flight to Atlanta as a standby. That bed sure will feel good. Let's see, next week is Ocala."

