



COMMON SCENTS

January/February, 1994
Vol. 18., No. 1

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

TENTATIVE DATES TO REMEMBER

Nominations Meeting/Program

Saturday, February 19, 1994 (day before Staten Island)
Snow Date - Saturday, February 26, 1994 (day before Bayshore)

Annual Meeting/Dinner

Saturday, March 26, 1994 (evening before Palm Sunday)

T.E.D.

Saturday, April 23, 1994

Girl Scout Demonstration

Saturday, May 14, 1994

Tracking Test

Sunday, November 6, 1994

WHO'S WHO

OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

John Etchells
Martha Hamill
Anna Burbank
Linda Riley

908-236-2423
908-846-5333
215-862-9833
908-730-7717

BOARD

Peg Forte
Ronn Loos
Hope Meaker
Dot Vail
Fran Wilmeth

908-832-7231
908-234-0507
908-995-9002
201-947-1835
215-862-2453

COMMITTEES

Tracking Experience Day
Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

Linda Riley
Dot Vail
Pat Etchells

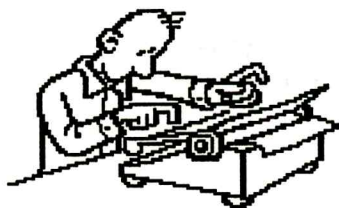
We are sorry to report the recent deaths of three of our members:

Laurella Mc Clelland - December 23

Joe Dainty - December 24

Mary Stuart - about January 14

Our sympathy is extended to their families and friends



This has been a hard winter for our Club. We lost three members within a month, and they will be missed.

Then the weather has made it all but impossible to get out with our dogs. Not only was it too hazardous to drive anywhere to track, but the heavy ice cover would have challenged our dogs' (and our) ability to stay upright - although probably their noses would have worked.

Several Lenape members did make it out to Allentown to man our booth at Lehigh Valley KC's Canine Experience Day, and we did hand out some fliers to prospective TED attendees. But the crowds there were definitely diminished by the weather.

Now we're looking forward to late winter and spring activities. We decided to make our general meeting an enjoyable occasion. In addition to the routine business of nominations, there will be a pot luck dinner in the middle of the day (so members don't have to contend with driving after dark.) We will have a program by Herb Skovronek, who has done extensive work with dogs and scenting. Herb is a member of Morris Hills Dog Training Club and acquainted with many of our members. We would like to have a good turnout for what should be a fascinating program. See the enclosed flier for more details on the meeting.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Pat Paulding has made arrangements for us to again hold our awards dinner at the Holiday Inn in Clinton. The food and service were excellent last year, so we hope many members can join us.

The TED fliers are being distributed at shows, and a copy is enclosed. Feel free to copy it and distribute it to interested parties. Remember, TED is what subsidizes our match and test - and we are going to need help from all members to make it a success.

On the general tracking scene, it appears that the TDI, which we discussed last fall, has been put on the back burner. Another title, the Variable Tracking Excellence (VTX) degree, will probably be introduced in 1995. Some of the preliminary features will be a track 1 to 3 hours old and 600 to 800 yards in length, with at least 1/3 to 1/2 of the surface other than vegetated. It can be laid alongside buildings, fences, etc. Hudson Valley is holding a workshop featuring John Barnard, the AKC Tracking Rep, the weekend of our Annual Dinner. Those interested in attending can call Mike Clemens at (518) 456-3429. (If anyone wants to go and report to the Club either at a meeting or through the newsletter, please let me know. The Club will reimburse a portion of the expense).

Maybe if everyone thinks Spring, we can force Old Man Winter to go into hiding. Let's give it a try.

Happy Tracking.

John Etchells



BARBARA DRESSEL's Cocker **Skimmer** was HIT with a 197.5 from Open B at the American Spaniel Club show. She also won Utility B with a 196. These wins give her two of her three OTCh first places, 8 OTCh points and a leg on her UDX title.

Vizsla **Misty** O'BRIEN also earned a leg on her UDX, at Princeton, qualifying in Open B with a 190 and in Utility B with a 192.5.



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

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Linda Riley, Joanne MacKinnon, and Pat Etchells, has proposed the following slate of officers and Board members for the 1993-1994 year. Additional nominations may be made at the February meeting.

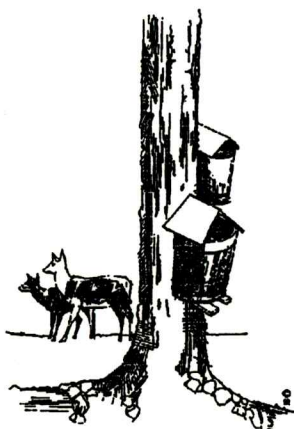
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Board Members

Marty Hamil
Anna Burbank
Pat Etchells
Linda Riley
John Etchells
Peg Forte
Hope Meaker
Dot Vail
Fran Wilmeth

OBSERVE THE TRACKING FIELD

by Richard Knapp
from The Tracking Club of Central Florida's *Cross Tracks*, February, 1993

Ask the average tracker where their last track went or how many turns it had and they won't be able to tell you. Ask more experienced trackers the same questions, and they will remember the exact details of most every Test track they have ever run. By design or just sheer repetition, the more you track, the more you understand and use your knowledge of your surroundings.



Whenever you track, it is a good idea to be comfortable with your tracking field. Observe landmarks, roads, tree lines, fences, etc., etc., before you start to track and you won't be surprised by them when you encounter them during the track. Make the field your friend, and you'll be better prepared to handle your dog before it encounters possible problem areas.

All too often we focus so heavily on the starting stake and on the dog during the track, we fail to remember where we have been or what might lay ahead of us. If you are aware of where you have been in the field, and your dog loses the scent, you will be able to help the dog get back to where the scent was, and prevent the dog from going where you already have been. Focus on your dog, but take the sights in along your track.

In real life Search and Rescue, one of your most important responsibilities is knowing and thoroughly searching an area assigned to your S&R team. If a S&R team doesn't know where it is going or where it has been, a life can be lost.

If you want to be part of a total tracking team and earn part of the TD or TDX Title, and if you want to be a useful tracker, then keep your eyes open and know where and what you and your dog are doing, and smell a few roses along the way.

Knowing your track also makes the title more meaningful. To just remember you started and finished makes for a dull memory. Knowing every aspect of your TD or TDX track can make the Test a more meaningful and long-lasting experience you can bore old and new friends with for years to come.

A HARD CORE TRACKAHOLIC

Author Unknown
Reprinted from *MTA News*, March 1989

- Discourages her daughter from setting her wedding day on the day of her club's tracking test.
- Borrows a dog to track with because hers is lame.
- Dislocated her shoulder while handling the line and asks her tracklayer friends to take the dog and finish the track.
- Instead of trying to aid her friend with the injured shoulder, takes the friend's dog and finishes the track.
- Wakes up on a cold rainy morning and says, "Beautiful day! Perfect for tracking".
- Asks her tracklayer mother, dressed in a brown coat, to hide out in the field at the end of the track to increase the dog's motivation - during deer season.
- Is the dear mother who does it.
- Arranges her daughter's orthodontist appointments for afternoon so she won't miss the morning tracking group.
- Risks sliding off the icy roads at the beginning of a winter storm in order to stay long enough to finish the day's track.
- Takes a day of personal leave from work to get to the tracking area a day early so the dog can become acclimated.
- Routinely heats up leftovers for supper on tracking days because she never gets home in time to cook.
- Calls in sick and then goes to meet a judge to certify her dog.
- Doesn't mind at all that people think she is weird walking around an open field alone carrying flags and dropping bits of food.
- Gets upset when a jogger comes puffing up and says, "I found this wallet out in the field. Did you lose it?"
- Makes an excuse not to help at her mother-in-law's Open House when she really plans to go tracking.
- When failing health keeps her out of the fields, still loves to sit in the van to see as many tracks as she can.
- Goes shopping for clothes to wear and comes home with a new pair of boots and an anorak.
- Has a husband who knows when she is not home an hour and a half later than she said that the dogs had problems on the tracks.