



COMMON SCENTS

March/April 1994
Vol. 18., No. 2

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

TENTATIVE DATES TO REMEMBER

T.E.D.

Saturday, April 23, 1994

TED Follow Up 1

Saturday, June 11, 1994

TED Follow Up 2

Sunday, July 10, 1994

TED Follow Up 3

Saturday, August 13, 1994

Tracking Test

Sunday, November 6, 1994

OFFICERS

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Vice President
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Tracking Experience Day
Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

WHO'S WHO

Martha Hamil
Anna Burbank
Pat Etchells
Linda Riley

John Etchells
Peg Forte
Hope Meaker
Dot Vail
Fran Wilmeth

Linda Riley
Dot Vail
Pat Etchells

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908-236-2423
908-730-7717

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908-995-9002
201-947-1835
215-750-5588

FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S DESK:

These past two years as Lenape president have been very rewarding. We held many successful events, including TEDs, matches, tracklayer certifications, public awareness projects and, of course, our tests. Lenape has developed a reputation in the tracking community of being a top notch club, and this is a reflection on all of us. Our entire membership should accept a pat on the back for their efforts.

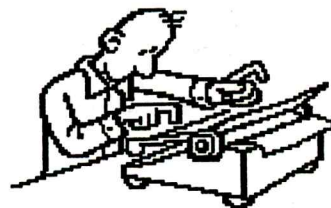
The personal highlight of my presidency was, of course, Robin's TD. But I also gained a great deal of satisfaction learning the finer points of tracking while working with the judges at various events.

And on the other end of the spectrum, it was very rewarding to help the TED participants discover what a great sport we have.

I wish Marty the best of luck as she takes over, and I trust you will give her the support you gave me.

Happy Tracking.

John Etchells





BARBARA DRESSEL's Cocker **Skimmer** has the third first place for her OTCh requirements and has 7 legs on her UDX title and 24 OTCh points..

BARBARA IRWIN's Collie **Lizbet** was HIT at the Collie Club of New England. She was also HIT and High Combined at Hartford Springfield Collie Club. And **Maggie** was High Combined at the Metropolitan Area Papillon Club.



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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

by Kenneth M. Nagler

reprinted from *Front and Finish*, January, 1994
via *The Hudson Valley Tracker*, March/April, 1994

My old friend Chutney Thrimp wrote me asking if I knew anything about the Ideal Acres Tracking Club. He got an announcement about the club's tracking test, but one of his dogs ate most of the flyer. From the information on the salvaged part, he feels he would like to enter their tracking test. Unfortunately, he does not have the date, location, test secretary or the entry fee.

Here are the only salvaged fragments from the flyer:

Our 620 brier-free acres are tightly fenced so that no deer, rabbit, mouse or other animal can distract your dog. The anti-avian ray system discourages birds from landing in our fields or even flying within 200 feet of the ground. The tracklayers all weigh more than 300 pounds and, in their quarters downwind of our building, they are monitored carefully to be sure that they do not bathe or change clothes for at least two weeks before a tracking test.

Spectators can watch the test from the restaurant observatory in the top floor of our building. While there, they can enjoy gourmet food prepared by our European chefs.

THE HUSBAND SYNDROME

author unknown

reprinted from *The Tracking Club of Central Florida's Cross Tracks*, January, 1994

There are a number of trackers out there who seem to think the more they talk to their dogs, the more the dogs will listen. These handlers don't seem to think that their dogs are very intelligent and need to be reminded every step of the way what their purpose in the tracking field is. Others obviously think that their dogs don't want to track and that giving their dogs the command to track over and over again is the only way to get their dogs to finish a track.

How effective is this?

Ted Hoesel of Illinois relates this to marriage. His is obviously a perfect marriage and only knows what other husbands say about their own marriages (RIGHT!) Being divorced, I can attest to his theory with no fear of reprisal or lack of connubial bliss.

The more a wife talks, the less a husband will hear. The more a wife repeats herself, right or wrong, the more she will be ignored. Eventually a husband's only survival recourse comes from convenient deafness - THE HUSBAND SYNDROME.



Every trainer of every animal (including husbands) recognizes that only one command is needed in training. The more a command is given, the less respect for the command a dog has, and the less importance it carries. A command given too often becomes no command at all - the command becomes a detriment and not an incentive, something to be ignored rather than obeyed.

Avoid at all cost your dog developing the HUSBAND SYNDROME!!

HELP NEEDED

Linda Riley has been trying to get in touch with TED helpers by phone. If she hasn't reached you and you want to help, PLEASE give her a call at (908) 730-7717.

Thoughts on Handling

by Mario Salacone

reprinted from the Palo Alto Foothills Tracking Association's *Gone Trackin'*, April, 1993

In a previous PAFTA newsletter we reprinted an article from another tracking club wherein the author stated: "The only purpose for the handler on the track is to go along to hold up the 40 foot line fastened to the dog and untangle it if it gets caught in the brush." There was a time when I might have agreed with the preceding statement, but not now. A good handler has much to do both in training and during the actual test. The 40 foot line can play a part in the outcome of the test.

After a few years of being around the tracking experts and being part of the tracking scene, you notice that everyone and everything is blamed for the "whistle". However, when analyzing the reasons for failure, you always revert to the basic training of not only the dog but the handler in preparation for the particular test.

The test is over and the dog failed. You ask the handler (not the dog), "what happened?" You can get one of many reasons, some unusual, but most are the same, i.e., "there must have been deer, cows (you name it) that drifted over the track during the night", "lost the scent", "the spectators were making a lot of noise", "airplanes overhead", "cow/horse plops in the field", "the dog was exhausted", "it was a lousy track", "the terrain/change of cover, hills", etc., etc., etc., etc...

So, handlers, before announcing at a "press conference" the reason for failure and fixing the blame, look in the mirror and ask yourself a few questions (not necessarily in order of importance):

- a. Were we (you and your dog) ready for the test?
- b. Can I "read" my dog? Does my dog "read" me (my movements and commands)?
- c. Did we train properly to meet all possible conditions that might be expected or unexpected for the specific test?
- d. Were we motivated during the training periods? In the test?
- e. Did my nervousness and behavior cause my dog problems?
- f. Did I demand mandatory concentration by the dog (on scent) and myself (on the dog, line, track, etc.) during the training sessions? Did it carry over to the actual test?

- g. Did I allow the dog sufficient time to take the scent at the starting flag? (from the ground (TD); article (TDX))
- h. (If TDX) After the dog obtained scent from the article at the starting flag did I take it with me or did I leave it? (This first article can be considered a bonus and so are subsequent articles that can be used to give scent to the dog while on the tack. Why do some handlers leave this at the start?)
- i. Did I fully concentrate on the dog and handle the line properly? (Other than "seeing" the dog and an occasional verbal command, the way you handle the line on straight legs, turns, back-ups, whether tight, loose, draped over the rear of the dog to the ground, etc., can result in transmitting a wrong message to the dog that can be confusing and cause the dog to lose concentration on the scent.)
- j. When the dog appeared to have lost the scent in the vicinity of a possible corner, did I allow the dog to circle the area, with appropriate line adjustments? (Guidelines for Obedience Judges states: "If, at a turn, the handler, without any indication from the dog, proceeds down the next leg, the tracking performance must be suspect. A continuation of this behavior by the handler must result in the dog being marked 'failed'."
- k. Was I aware of the temperature, wind/direction?
- l. Did I talk too much to the dog? Did I water the dog when it wasn't necessary? Am I setting a pattern that is breaking up scent concentration?
- m. From the point of failure, how did the dog complete the remainder of the track? Did I treat this part as though we were being judged? (It is reassuring to the handler to have his dog not leave the tracking area without "finding" the glove or wallet.)

There were many other handler's responsibilities that could have been added to the above list. As shown above, the handler must himself have a good deal of practice if he is to make much more use of his canine partner's gift. There is more to being a handler than holding a line.

