



COMMON SCENTS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 1994
Vol. 18., No. 5

LENAPE TRACKING CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tracking Test
Sunday, November 6, 1994

WHO'S WHO

OFFICERS

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Secretary
Treasurer

Martha Hamil
Anna Burbank
Pat Etchells
Linda Riley

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COMMITTEES

Tracking Experience Day
Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

Linda Riley
Dot Vail
Pat Etchells

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Lenape Members,

Last night I dreamed of tracking. The fields were lush, the sun shining, and it was getting dark. Tracy did the most beautiful track anyone had ever seen, but I missed it because I had gone to find her harness. Someone else ran the track with her. But in dreams, one finds things. Her harness was draped over my head. Then I awoke and realized Pat needed the president's message. For those involved in the meaning of dreams, the one above is open for your interpretation. For those involved in tracking, keep on dreaming.

Our test match went well. Four dogs of seven passed. The day was beautiful, the food good, and the instruction outstanding. Thanks to all those who helped, and congratulations to our Club members and TED participants who passed.

I attended the tracking test of the Doberman National Club. Rose and Hope, if you believe the fields you drew at our match were rough, you should have seen these. But two of the four dogs passed, even with handlers falling and tripping. I am convinced our Club has a class act, including fields, tracklayers, food, and general ambiance. See you all at our AKC test.

Martha Hamil

NJFDC BREEDER'S DIRECTORY

Applications are available for anyone wishing to list in the 1995-1996 edition. Call Pat Etchells (908) 236-2423 for a copy. They will need to be returned before the test so that the Board will have a chance to review them before signing them and forwarding them to the Federation.

MEMORIES OF FRAN

Patty Gorey: Not long ago, Fran told me that her greatest thrill in dogs was when her Doberman, Ch Florian Vom Ahrtal, CD went Best in Show. Two weeks before Fran passed away, I had my last coherent visit with her. After that she was on morphine and pretty much out of it. At the end of that last visit, she started to cry because she didn't want to leave her friends. I told her that we'd all miss her, but didn't want to see her suffering the way she was. Then I asked her to make me a promise. Before she said yes, she had to hear what it was. I asked her to watch all my animals for me up in Heaven until I got there. I told her I didn't trust anyone else. She laughed and agreed to do it. It made light of a sad situation, but when I think of her now, she's minding my animals until I get there.

Pat Blake: I didn't know her very well, but she was a great inspiration. Holly and I were in a pre-Open class with Fran and Joy. I liked to watch them work together. Joy was so eager for her dumbbell while Holly wanted no part of hers. Fran progressed to Open while I was still trying to get Holly's mouth open. I never asked Fran how she did it, but that summer at camp I learned about treats. Now Holly is as eager for her dumbbell as Joy was. Thank you Fran. Fran also conducted a class for stewards. That was a great night with our dogs (very informative). So when I stand in the ring, arms folded, staring off in a distance, I am thinking of Fran and her stewards class.

Pat Etchells: What I remember most about Fran was her determination and her sense of what was right. Her 53 shows to get Della's UD are legendary, but she was also just as persistent with Jackson in Open. In 1988 Jackson and my cocker Shadow were competing to see how many shows they could blow for one exercise. Jackson was such an outgoing, energetic little dog that Fran sometimes had trouble with him going on tears or visiting the stewards. At one show Jackson broke a stay, and the steward kept him by the ring gate, petting him for the balance of the exercise. As her indignation slowly faded, Fran got Jackson to forget about the positive reinforcement he'd received for his misbehavior - but it was about six more months until he finally got that elusive last leg!



BARBARA DRESSEL has finished up her cocker **Skimmer's** UDX title. Skimmer went out in style at Wachusett KC, where she had a 197.5 in Utility and 199.5 in Open B - first place in both classes, High Combined, and High in Trial. She was also HIT and High Combined at the South Jersey specialty. Her OTCh point count is now up to at least 70.

On a troublesome note, MILLIE HEFNER is hospitalized with a fractured clavicle and kneecap incurred during a fall at her home.

BARBARA RIDDER IRWIN also has a UDX on her Papillon Ch Rom's Meggan. She is the first of her breed, and possibly the first in the Toy Group to earn the title.

HOPE MEAKER's Flat-Coated Retriever **Derby** earned her TD at Berks. In Canada at Save the Children's show, **Pega** was BW for 3 points and Derby took 3rd in Open with a 195.



MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have submitted application for membership. They will become members 30 days after the mailing of this newsletter unless the secretary Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833 receives any letters of objection within 30 days.

Mollie Heide, 327 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551-1705 (609) 466-4160

Flat-Coated Retrievers - Ch Vicky, Ch Magic, Ch Sailor, Ch Brett, Ch Bessie, Steed, Ch Woody, Princess, Lacey
Sponsors - Pat Etchells & Hope Meaker

Rose Kruser, 389 Schoolhouse Road, Jamesburg NJ 08831 (908) 521-1549

Doberman Pinscher- Magic, Can CD, CGC
Sponsors - Pat Etchells & Martha Hamil

SEPTEMBER 25 CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

by Pat Etchells

Mother Nature must have liked us, for She gave us a perfect weekend for a tracking event. Following rain late during the previous week, She limited herself to infrequent drizzle the day of plotting and calm, comfortable weather with clouds the day of the match. The result was that some dogs had a great day!

The outcome, however, could not have been predicted at the beginning. The first dog running on Karl Gabosch's track in the mine field had never tracked anyone but his owner and was just not ready. The second dog had Anna Burbank's track in the upper left field. Despite excellent handing on her owner's part and spurts of very good tracking, the youngster was just too distracted to succeed. Finally Barbara Greenfield's Golden Retriever Holly broke the spell. They did a beautiful job on my track in the top right field and showed that a team who comes to TED and all the follow-ups and has a tracking partner can become a tracker in one summer!

Karl then put down a track on the left side of the school field for Anna Burbank's Dobie, and Raven methodically found her way to the end and a certification. On the other half of the field, Hope Meaker's Flat-Coat Derby ran John Etchells' track like a pro, and she earned a set of certificates to replace those she never used from last year....

Our favorite "pond field" with a fantastic pass rate was in corn, but its owner let us use the huge straw field next to it. Rose Kruser (who had come to TED several years ago) ran her Dobie Magic on my track, and despite the fact that she had been doing Schutzhund tracking and was used to tracking her owner on short cover, she made the transition and tracked her way to the glove and a certification. The final dog on John's track was not really ready.

Since we had not filled, I entered my Cocker Robin so Salle could give us some tips on starting TDX work. Anna put down a bunch of starts - one flag, angle approach, no approach (she hopped to that one), and a start between a 2-flag chute. And Salle put down a short straight track for her and had Peg Forte walk serpentine cross tracks much later (the theory being that as your training progresses, you decrease the time difference).

A Lenape event would not have been complete without the feasting. Pat Blake did an excellent job of organizing the picnic and the early-morning goodies, and she sends a big thank you to all who contributed. A nod goes also to all who came to telepathically help get the dogs to the gloves. Besides the tracklayers and entrants mentioned above, supporters included members Gail Benson, Marty Hamil, Mollie Heide, and Linda Riley and TED attendees Pat Griffith, Paul Koehler and Lori MacCord.

This was a great learning experience for everyone. Salle Crooks has a wealth of knowledge about tracking, and she's willing to share it. All the dogs who did not pass still got the benefit of her encouragement and suggestions. From a Club standpoint, after working in the fields by the town hall for a second year, Salle is convinced that the complex could hold three, if not four, TDX tracks, and she urged us to GO FOR IT!



NOVEMBER 6 TEST PREPARATION

The Premium Lists have gone out, and we're waiting for entries to come in. John Etchells is looking for certified tracklayers. If you want to help out, give him a call at (908) 236-2423. And Priscilla Gabosch will be looking for food donations. Call her at (609) 858-6227 - or expect a call from her!

About the Rottweiler Ban

Please tell your friends that Lenape has nothing against Rottweilers! When the Colonial Rottweiler Club changed its 1994 specialty test to our traditional date, they asked us to exclude Rottweilers so they would be in compliance with AKC's rules regarding event conflicts. We first suggested that they not use our date, since it did not make much sense to deprive Rottweilers of the chance to show in two tests. However, their plans were so far advanced that they could not change, so we granted the exclusion for 1994 only.

SPECTATOR MANNERS

by Anne Schaefer

Reprinted from the Denver Foothills Tracking Association's *Foothills Footfalls*, Fall 1987

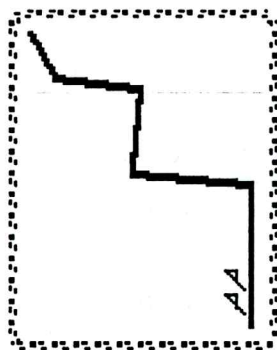
Spectators are very welcome to attend our tracking tests. Most clubs have set up special amenities for spectators (who include handlers, tracklayers and other participants when their specific jobs are done). Here are some hints for spectators that will increase their enjoyment of the tests.

Wear suitable clothes. Good areas to hold tracking tests in Colorado are usually difficult for automobiles, so there is often some walking to be done. This isn't very far but may entail walking through thistles and up small hills, so easy-to-walk-in shoes are a must. Also, Colorado weather can change on the spur of the moment. Most of us pack some rain gear in the car, just in case. In fall and spring, snow can suddenly begin, so a warm coat and hat is a good precaution. On the other hand, the sun will surely be hot if it comes out from behind a cloud.

There will probably be spectator cars just for you. These vans/trucks/cars will have special permission to drive off the main roads so as to get spectators to the best possible viewing spot per track. Most of our areas are restricted as to vehicular traffic, so you may not drive your private cars to these viewing spots. Be ready to ride in the designated vehicles.

Most of our clubs will also furnish refreshments, from simple coffee/tea/lemonade and donuts before dawn to a gourmet potluck spread following the test. These have traditionally been compliments of the host club, although donations are usually welcomed.

Spectators must be quiet. Unfortunately our thin Colorado air carries sound much farther than any of us realize. Our dogs are disturbed if they hear talking, although just seeing a group of people on the hill doesn't bother them. Some clubs prepare spectator maps which can be made available to those watching as soon as the dog passes the second



flag. This makes it possible for spectators to tell how well the dog is following the track. These maps can be very elaborate and are often given to the handlers after the test.

Beginners who want to learn this sport of tracking will find spectating at tracking tests very helpful. Participants, both entrants and those working to set up the test, are happy to explain what is going on to the people watching. Remember that they have work to do, but after their job is finished, they too become spectators. Handlers are very nervous before they track, but usually love to talk about it after the fact. Indeed, many of them need to unwind and helping new people learn what tracking is all about is a good way to release the tension. Tracklayers usually are through with their assigned duties before or early in the test and they quickly become spectators as the dogs follow the very track that they've laid. Denver Foothills Tracking Association members should encourage their friends to come to watch the tracking test. Knowledgeable people are always needed, and being a spectator is the best way to learn all about tracking.



HANDLING TIPS

reprinted from *The Hudson Valley Tracker*, April, 1991

When it is your turn to go on a TD track, keep some points in mind. Don't decide to work on your tracking equipment at the start of the track. Make sure your lead is untangled as you leave your car. Nothing is more frustrating than to fumble with knots at the start of the track. Try to put on the tracking harness long before the start of the track. I always try to put it on near the car. When coming up to the start of the track, come in at the same direction as the first two flags, thereby controlling the direction the dog will be going. Keep your hand on the buckle of the lead, move swiftly up to the start, point to the starting area, and tell the dog to hunt for the track. Keep the dog under control - try to eliminate charging. Remember, you must be 20 feet from your dog for both you and your dog to be moving. When on the track you can move the dog back to you as long as you hold still, or you can move up on the dog as long as he is not moving, such as if he is tangled. When you get past the second flag, you are on your own, and from there I wish you good luck.

HOW TO ENTER AN AKC TD TEST

by Joan Telfer

reprinted from the Midwest Tracking Association's *MTA News*, June, 1990

Fill in an official AKC entry form. It is the same one you use to enter obedience or breed shows. In the box for Obedience Class put TD. Fill out the rest of the entry as usual. Be sure to enclose one of your Certification slips with this entry. Without proof of certification, your entry cannot be accepted. If you don't have the specific entry form for the TD test, use

one of the blanks supplied by the AKC in the *Gazette*, or use an entry form for any other AKC event. Cross out that information and replace with correct information for the TD test.

HOW MANY TESTS SHOULD YOU ENTER? I would enter at least two at the same time. Entries are decided by a random draw. Entering more than one test gives you a pretty good chance of getting in one of them. What if you get in two or more and pass the first one? If any of the others have not closed, call the Trial Secretary and cancel. They will refund your money. The premium lists should indicate if the club will refund entry fees after their closing date. I would find out what each club's policy is before entering. If there are alternates, most clubs will refund your money, but they don't have to, so find out before entering.

WHAT ARE ALTERNATES? The AKC rules say the clubs must accept all entries until the closing date. If there is a ten-dog limit and twenty dogs are entered, you have ten entries who will run and ten entries who may or may not run. After dogs one through ten have been drawn, they must keep on drawing. The next ten draws are the alternates. The order the alternates are drawn in is important. If one or more of the first ten cancel their entry(s), they are replaced, in the order drawn, from the alternate list. For example, two of the dogs in a test pass the week before. Their handlers call and pull their entries. This means the first two dogs on the alternate list will be notified they are now in the test. If you are dog twenty on the alternate list, I would not plan on getting in this test. If you are first or second alternate (in this case dogs

drawn #11 and #12) and there are other tests two or three weekends before this test, you have a good shot at getting in. If this in fact does happen, the Trial Secretary should let you know ahead of time. However, I have been at trials where no one pulls, but one, maybe two dogs don't show or they notify the club they are pulling their entry the day of the test. In these instances, the Trial Secretary does not have time to notify the alternates. Especially if you're in Minnesota and the test is in Chicago, if you're the 1st or 2nd alternate, it could pay to be there. The distance you might have to travel is another important factor to consider if you are an alternate.

Be on time for the draw. It is the judges' decision whether or not to delay the draw if an entrant is missing. They do not have to do so, especially if there is an alternate present.

One other thing, if you pull your entry, for any reason, you cannot change your mind. Once you notify the Trial Secretary (in writing or verbal) you are not coming, you're out of that test.



GUIDING YOUR DOG, A NO NO

by Richard Knapp

Reprinted from the Tracking Club of Central Florida's *Cross Tracks*, January, 1992

Cynthia Harrell and I had many a discussion before and after the West Palm TDX Test with the AKC Tracking Field Rep. John Barnard. One of John's concerns is the amount of "Guiding" that has gone on in the past. With rules changes and his talks around the country, judges are watching "guiding" more closely, and handlers are doing less guiding. Four TDX teams nationally have been failed for guiding at TDX Tests, and one came close at West Palm.

The Rules

Commands and Signals. Handlers may give verbal commands and verbal encouragement to the dog. However, commands, signals or body motions used by the handler to indicate the specific location or direction of the track are prohibited.

Guiding and Restraining. Guiding is defined as behavior by the handler which influences or determines the dog's direction. Guiding is prohibited and the dog shall be marked failed. Restraint is permitted to slow a dog that is moving too fast for the handler or in cases of an unusual distraction. However, repeated restraint which influences the dog's direction is not permitted.

The Purpose of the Rules

The rules state that "The purpose of a Tracking Test is to determine the dogs' ability to recognize and follow human scent..." The Test tests the dogs and not the handler. Judges are to evaluate how well a dog can follow a track and not the handler.

TD Trackers

Please, FOLLOW YOUR DOG!!! Though the first and thirty stakes give you the direction of the first leg, you should follow your dog. Knowing where the first leg is does not permit you to follow the track while your dog parallels 20 feet off it as this is signaling and influencing the dog's direction.

Footsteps Thru the Brambles

by Bob Brown

Reprinted from Indian Nations Tracking Club's *Nose News*, March, 1993

A lot of us tracking enthusiasts look for a guiding light - while on the track. The muddy footprint, the broken grass blade becomes a confidence boost as we are trudging along behind our tracking dog. Having considerably less olfactory perception than our faithful tracking partner, we try to use our sometimes superior intellect to overcome the wizardry of the track. As if the end of the tracking lead was a steering column and simple motions could steer the dog around the track as we see it.

We enthusiasts also have deep within our conscious the knowledge of Tracking Regulation Section 16. As you know, Section 16 addresses guiding. Guiding is defined as behavior by the handler which influences or determines the dogs' direction. Handlers found guilty of guiding suffer a fate worse than death - their dog is marked FAILED.

So, observing the muddy footsteps going the same direction as your dog builds your

confidence, but what happens when the footprints turn and your dog doesn't or your dog turns and the footsteps don't? If your dog pulls hard any other direction but you fail to go with him, you will probably be called for guiding. Depending on the judges, they may observe the pulling once, twice or three times before calling it guiding. What if the dog takes off hard after some small creature? Holding the dog back in this case is called restraint and is considered okay. Section 16 allows restraint in cases of unusual distractions. This could include loud noises for a sound sensitive dog.



Back on the track, if you recognize a corner and turn facing down the new leg before the dog gives a definite indication that the track proceeds in that direction, it may be called guiding. Pointing or hand signals down the new leg would also be called guiding. Watch your body language - the judges are!

On normal tracking days the temptations for guiding are minimal. The ground is probably not muddy, the grass doesn't seem to lay over. The real guiding temptation comes when the track is laid in snow. How many times have we joked about how we would like our track in snow. Follow the footsteps thru 10 inches of the fluffy white stuff - the ideal track! Don't bet on it. A test in the snow will put additional stresses and temptation on most handlers. They know the guiding regulation and don't want to have any appearance of guiding. Care must be taken so that your handling does not suffer from the "guilty of guiding" feeling.

Judges too are under additional stress on snow. Many judges will caution handlers about guiding before they start their track. In snow, judges are much more intent on watching for guiding and may take note of handling situations that they would miss in a clear field. It is the judges' responsibility to see that the dog in the snowy field has no more or no less advantage in passing the track than the dog in the clear field.

I am sure all of us want every dog to have an equal opportunity on their track.

WANDERING HANDLING TIPS

reprinted from *The Hudson Valley Tracker*,
March, 1991

As test time draws near, we should talk about reasons why tracking teams are unsuccessful. One of the chief causes of tracking teams becoming lost on the track is that wandering that occurs. Whenever your dog breaks off after proceeding in a straight line, react and stop in your tracks. Plant your feet and use your lead. The most misused piece of equipment in tracking is the lead. Hands should not be glued to the lead. Make use of the entire length. Never, I repeat, never wander on the track. Once this happens, both you and your team partner will become lost. A handler only knows when he is on the track if the dog shows him. By breaking off the track, the dog is only showing that there is a deviation in the track. Let the dog work out the problem with the handler becoming a tree and working the lead. Staying in place is not enough. A handler must remain facing the same direction as when the dog left the track. Do not start turning to face the dog. Work the lead in the dog's direction. Wandering is a hard thing to overcome, but if you do, the chances of getting lost are greatly reduced.

Lenape Editor's Note: When your dog is tracking strongly on a leg, glance up and find a sight marker. It doesn't matter if it is the same one the tracklayer used. Just have some point of reference as to where you were going when the dog was definitely on track.



DID YOU KNOW

reprinted from *The Hudson Valley Tracker*, April, 1991



- Heartworm medication affects your dog's sense of smell for the first two weeks.
- If your dog is on antibiotics, his sense of smell is also affected.
- If the tracklayer or handler is on antibiotics, the scent they leave behind is different than that of people not on antibiotics.

TRACKLAYERS GET THE BEST OF THE BARGAIN

by Wendy Hays

reprinted from Palo Alto Foothills Tracking Association's May, 1985, *Gone Trackin'* via Pecatonica Tracking Club's October 1987 Newsletter

One of the best ways to learn more about tracking is as a tracklayer, whether for PAFTA, your local club or in response to an outside club's request. I think it's almost the equivalent of a free two-day workshop on tracking theory and practice.

When you leave your tracking harness at home and join in the planning and laying of test tracks, you can concentrate on learning more about the finer points of different terrain, conditions, how dogs are likely to react to them and how judges are likely to use them.

Without your own dog to observe and handle, you are free to watch how other handlers work with their dogs, picking up pointers on doing things better, and, of course, noticing and avoiding their mistakes.

The first time I served as a tracklayer I was amazed at what I learned about how wind conditions can affect a dog's performance. The judges rearranged a TD track that began with an uphill leg that had a stiff cross-wind. The following day I knew the tracks well enough to make a few educated guesses about why the dog behaved as it did on a given track. My own tracking took a definite turn for the better, both as a tracklayer and as a handler because I had some new principles to apply. I've been sold on volunteering as a tracklayer ever since.

There are a few other reasons I'm sure ought to be included, such as how difficult it is to conduct a test without tracklayers or how good it feels to get a thank-you note from an outside club you've helped. We also move that much closer to our goal of providing more opportunities for exhibitors to get involved with the tracking experience. And then there are those wonderful lunches ...

So, remember: the handler who knows her dog's nose knows, knows nosing around tracking events without her dogs' knowing nose is never a no-no.