



COMMON SCENTS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1995
Vol. 19., No. 1

LENAPE TRACKING CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nominations Meeting/Luncheon/Flag-Making Party.....Saturday, February 18, 1995
Awards Dinner/Annual Meeting.....Saturday, March 25, 1995
Tracking Experience Day.....Saturday, April 22, 1995
Certification Workshop.....Sunday, September 24, 1995
Tracking Test.....Sunday, November 5, 1995

WHO'S WHO

OFFICERS

President	Martha Hamil	908-846-5333
Vice President	Anna Burbank	215-862-9833
Secretary	Pat Etchells	908-236-2423
Treasurer	Linda Riley	908-730-7717

BOARD

John Etchells	908-236-2423
Peg Forte	908-832-7231
Hope Meaker	908-995-9002
Pat Paulding	908-454-9520
Dot Vail	201-947-1835

COMMITTEES

Tracking Experience Day	Linda Riley
Tracking Test Secretary	Dot Vail
Newsletter	Pat Etchells

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Pat Paulding (Chair), Pat Blake and Joanne MacKinnon, has proposed the following slate of Officers and Board members for the 1995-1996 year. Additional nominations may be made at the February meeting.

President	Anna Burbank
Vice President	Peg Forte
Secretary	Pat Etchells
Treasurer	Linda Riley
Board Members	Pat Blake
	John Etchells
	Hope Meaker
	Pat Paulding
	Dot Vail

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Every since Salle Crooks indicated that we would not have any difficulty fitting in several TDX tracks in the town hall area, the Board has been giving thought to holding a combined TD/TDX test in November, and we are inviting judges who are TDX licensed. But before we put in an application with AKC, we want input from members as to what tracks they think they might have a dog ready to run on. If you have any thoughts on the matter, give Anna a call at (215) 862-9833 or come to the meeting.



AN UPDATE ON BECKY

By Lynn Senstack-Kenney

PAT BLAKE reports that mix **Holly** earned her O-VCCX (Outstanding Versatile Canine Companion Excellent) title through AMBOR and also Clever Canine Companions. English Pointer **Shasta** earned her OC and OCX from Northeast Canine Coalition (she ranked #7). She also earned her VCCX. And Dobie **Madge** earned her TDI, TT, VSTT, OC & OCX and is HS for 1994 from the Northeast Canine Coalition (Working Registry).

BARBARA DRESSEL and Cocker **Skimmer** brought their OTCh point count up to 98 at American Spaniel Club, by winning OB with a 198.5 and UB with a 195.5. They were High Combined and High in Trial. At Princeton they took third in both OB and UB, with a 197.5 and 198.

The mother/daughter cocker team of **Shadow** and **Pearl** ETCHHELLS won the Brace class at the ASC show.

The GABOSCH's **Djata** completed his CD with legs at the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of US Specialty (2nd place), Cape May County DC and Salisbury. He also holds an AKC Senior Courser title, as well as a Sighthound Association Field Championship.

BARBARA GREENFIELD picked up a bumper CD leg at Princeton on Golden Retriever **Star** with a 197.

Tracy, MARTY HAMIL's Doberman, finished her championship in Florida in January.

WENDELL LARSEN's GSD **Gita** qualified at both Open B (193.5) and Utility B (103) at Princeton.

With RONN and MAELEINE each handling for a class, Collie **Penni** LOOS earned a UDX leg at Princeton with scores of 192 and 193.5

DOT VAIL got a CD leg at Princeton with a 194. Her dog was HS Kerry, and Dottie was HS Senior Handler!



Send your news to Pat Etchells,
PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833-0326
or call (908) 236-2423

After having received the July/Aug. issue of *Common Scents* with the article about Fran Wilmeth, I felt compelled to send a letter with some history and update: You see, we have been fortunate enough to adopt "Becky," Fran's Quaker's Rebecca - Fran's 18th Doberman. The update will, of course, be on Becky, but first some history.

Early last February, after having just returned from our first vacation in several years, my husband Drew went to our local kennel to pick up Zachary, our Doberman, who at the time was 1 1/2 years old. Next to Zachary, Drew noticed two Dobes. We found out later by our friends who run the kennel that those two were Becky (then 4 1/2) and Lotty (then 14) and that perhaps they were going to need homes. (As it turned out, only Becky needed as home as Lotty was not going to make it through the winter).

What timing! On the one hand, we had recently said a sad good-bye to my older spaniel-mix, Fluffernutter, who had been a good, fairly tolerant mother-figure for Zachary since he was 6 weeks old. We wanted to get a companion for Zachary for company while Drew and I both went to work. Becky's background was wonderful, her "story" so heartwarming. But on the other hand, we were just moving into a new home, doing a lot of the packing and moving ourselves, and my travel schedule was going to be a bit hectic until about June. Yet again, on the other hand, we felt strongly this was the right thing to do, at least to try it, for all our sakes. So we called our friends at the kennel that same night and told them that if Becky needed a home, we would love to provide it. We went to visit Becky the next day to spend a little time with her. She was so sweet, cute and good natured even in all the chaos of a rather full kennel. It was that visit which sealed her place in our hearts.

As fate would have it, Patty Gorey heard about our interest in Becky. Patty was a wonderful friend of Fran's and the main mobilizer in getting all Fran's dogs adopted into good homes and comfortably acclimated. (In the end she also became a friend of ours, educating us about the competition and Therapy dog scenes. Becky is a registered therapy dog.) After interviewing at least four other possible placings, Patty said "OK" to us. We were

thrilled. Although we said we would take Becky "On trial" to make sure she got along with Zach and he with her, after several hours, we all knew this was a good match. It still is to this day. They are inseparable best friends. It also took Becky no time at all to find someone to snuggle with on the couch (me). I guess she knew a soft heart when she saw one!

Becky was already trained up to CD and was working on her tracking, but there were some practical tricks she needed to learn. So Zachary has taught Becky a few things, too (with a little help from Drew and me): Hand signals for the basic commands, wait for her treat, slap-me-five, shake, back up, stay out of the room, put her head down while lying down, play frisbee, and play tug-of-war with Zach to name a few.

We understand it was a long haul for Fran and are sorry we got involved so late in the game. She really was one amazing lady, both with and without the dogs. We were able to visit Fran only twice, once with just Becky for introductions, and once with both Zachary and Becky so Fran could see Zach. It was great - she approved of Zach a lot and could see that he had already become great pals with Becky. We are so proud to be able to be taking care of one of her babies and enjoying every minute of it.

WINTER CARE FOR CANINES

extracted from AKC bulletin

General Winter Concerns

Winter's cold air brings lots of concerns for responsible dog owners:

- Don't leave your dog outside in the cold for long periods of time. Wind-chill makes dogs colder than actual temperature readings. Be attentive to your dog's body temperature and limit time outdoors.
- Adequate shelter is a necessity. Keep your dog warm, dry and away from drafts. Tiles and uncarpeted areas may become extremely cold, so make sure to place blankets and pads on floors in these areas.
- Be extra careful when walking or playing with your dog near frozen lakes, rivers or ponds. You dog could slip or jump in and get seriously injured.

- Groom your dog regularly. Your dog needs a well-groomed coat to keep him properly insulated. Short- or coarse-haired dogs may get extra cold so consider a sweater or coat. Long-haired dogs should have their paw hair clipped to ease snow removal and the cleaning of their feet.
- Feed your dog additional calories if he spends a lot of time outdoors or is a working animal. It takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperature regulated, so additional calories are necessary.
- Towel or blow-dry your dog if he gets wet from rain or snow. It is important to dry and clean his paws, too. This helps avoid tiny cuts and cracked pads. (A little petroleum jelly may soften the pads and prevent further cracking.)
- Don't leave your dog alone in a car. It gets too cold and carbon monoxide from an engine left running is dangerous.

Health Tips

Dogs cannot talk to us when they are sick, so as a responsible dog owner it is important to pay special attention to your dog's well-being during the winter season:

- Antifreeze, which often collects on driveways and roadways, is highly poisonous. Although it smells and tastes good to your dog, it can be lethal.
- Rock salt, used to melt ice on sidewalks, may irritate footpads. Be sure to rinse and dry your dog's feet after a walk.
- Provide plenty of fresh water. Your dog is just as likely to get dehydrated in the winter as in the summer. Snow is not a satisfactory substitute for water.
- Frostbite is a winter hazard. To prevent frostbite on ears, tail and feet, don't leave your dog outdoors for too long.
- Be very careful of supplemental heat sources. Fireplaces and portable heaters can severely burn your dog. Make sure all fireplaces have screens and keep portable heaters out of reach.
- Like people, dogs seem to be more susceptible to illnesses in the winter. Do make sure to take your dog to a veterinarian if you see any suspicious symptoms.
- Don't use over-the-counter medications on your dog without consulting a veterinarian.

GETTING TOUGH WITH NERVES

by Richard Knapp

reprinted from the Tracking Club of Central Florida's *Cross Tracks*, July, 1994

Every handler will tell you that one's emotions will travel down the lead, and even through the air when off-lead heeling. This includes trackers, who as scent experts, feel that it is actually the fear or adrenaline scent from the handler that the dog smells and reacts to.

The problem everyone has is trying to recreate test situations in practice. Many things can be recreated, but what about the fear and nervousness factor? At our last Test, John Barnard had a solution. John's suggestion was to get tough with the student, to rile the student up, to get the student's juices flowing.

John had a few ripe words to say but they are unprintable (only joking). I forget what John actually said, but the gist as something like this.



Instructor to student. "I don't know what I am doing here wasting my time with you. Let's get it over with. Who taught you to approach the flag that way? You ever think about getting a proper lead or harness. Why are you looking around, watch your dog not me. That was a great start command. Do you really expect the dog to track now? Put more tension (less) on the lead!!! Don't let him get 2 feet off the track!! You are going to fail before you ever leave the start!!"

Get the Point?

Now, of course, you cannot get too out of hand and you have to tell the handler there was nothing personal about anything you said.

If you have a dog or handler that only seems to have problems at Tests, and you have tried everything else, this idea might be your only option.

ALWAYS THE GLOVE

by Richard Knapp

reprinted from the Tracking Club of Central Florida's *Cross Tracks*, July, 1994

Ever since I started tracking I have been told that the dog should always find the glove, that every track needs to have a positive end. Is this really true?

I will agree in early training when we are trying to teach our dogs and ourselves how to track, trying to generate motivation, etc., that the glove and after track rewards are needed and that we want positive results. But how far should we take this once the dog has learned to track?

I fear that too many people carry the positive results/glove too far. I fear that we are telling our dogs that if the dog does not find the glove then we will find it for them. A dog can pick up on this and will soon let the handler do the tracking, the dog merely following in front.

Once a dog has learned how to track, should we always let the dog find the glove even when it has not tracked? I think NOT!

If a dog tries to track but encounters a problem in the field, then Okay, toss a glove down and break off the track.

But, if there is no reason for the dog to quit working, then don't let it have the glove. If the dog is motivated to track then no finds will not turn the dog off. It will teach the dog, however, to rely more on himself than on the trainer.

Is it fair to the tracklayers and does it do a dog any good to finish a dog at a Test that has failed and shows no inclination to track? All too often at Tests I see dogs literally walked through TD and TDX tracks after failing. The dog has shown it doesn't want to track that day for whatever reason maybe even a good reason, and the dog learns nothing positive by being led through a track. If you have to do something, wouldn't it be better to lay a short, motivational track?



From **Business Week**, 8/15/94. A free pamphlet, *Providing for Your Pets in the Event of Your Death or Hospitalization*, offers animal lovers advice on designating caretakers and on providing money for pet care in their wills. Call the New York City Bar Assn. (212 382-6695)