

## Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

# COMMON SCENTS

January/February, 1997  
Vol. 21., No. 1

### From the President's Desk



We have a few events coming up in the near future:

The Nominations Meeting is on February 15. My friend Ellen Karlsson, who was a trainer for Seeing Eye, will be doing a program for us on how dogs are trained for this purpose. She also got permission from Seeing Eye to bring a demonstration dog.

The Annual Dinner on March 23 is actually a brunch this year. We were able to make some nice arrangements at the Coach & Paddock in Clinton.

Mark your calendars for TED on Sunday, April 20. As usual we need A LOT of help to make this event successful. It is the only money making event for our club and without it we would not be able to hold the match and test in the fall. Please come out and support Lenape on this day!

Don't forget to fill out the membership survey that was enclosed with the dues notice. We really hope to get a lot of good feedback on what members would like to see from Lenape in the future.

Anna Burbank

### Dates To Remember

#### Nominations Meeting

..... Saturday, February 15, 1997

#### TED 1997

..... Sunday, April 20, 1997

#### Certification Workshop

..... Sunday, September 21, 1997

#### Tracking Test

..... Sunday, November 2, 1997



KATHY GAYNOR got the CD on her rescue Chow Shadow in 3 straight snows

Our sympathy goes out to LOUISE TIERNAN on the loss of her Golden Jason, in December.

In 1996, besides earning her TDX (see report page 3), MARTHA WINDISH's Golden Tawny finished her UDX in August. Misty completed her WC in June, for her JH in September and finished her CDX in October. Her scores had been 191, 184.4 and 196.5 Levee completed her CD in March (scores 194.5, 191.5 and 191.5) and her CDX in July (187, 192, 187.5) and earned her WCX in September.

DOT VAIL's Golden Bucky also crossed the Rainbow Bridge this winter.

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**President** - Anna Burbank ♣ **Vice President** - Peg Forte ♣ **Secretary** - Pat Etchells  
**Treasurer** - John Etchells ♣ **Board Members** - Barbara Greenfield, Joanne MacKinnon, Ralph MacKinnon, Linda Riley, Dot Vail ♣ **Editor** - Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833.  
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## 1/16 Board Meeting Highlights

### Treasurer's Report

- John announced that the actual loss on the test was \$757.03.
- Insurance. The Board authorized John to renew our policy with Sportsman's.
- Dues Notices - will be mailed out with Peg's survey.

### Old Business

- Judges for '97.
  - For the TD test - Sandy Roth, and Carole Artim. Pat will send a letter of confirmation. The letter should include the statement that if they are bringing a dog, there will be no facilities provided by the Club.
  - We still don't have a judge for the September certification match.
- Land. Ralph is going to make up a fact sheet to give to potential landowners. He is going to re-do one we had in the past and will include copies of our Insurance coverage and AKC rule books and references.
  - Exxon may not work out. The person in charge of security was worried about liability.
  - Barbara Greenfield is going to check out land where her husband Len has a contact. This is in the Blairstown area, which would be quite a distance from our current sites.
  - We still have to check out the suitability of land by Raritan Valley College which Mollie Heide has mentioned.
- Survey. Peg and Joanne prepared a survey to determine where the membership wants the club to be going. It will be mailed out with the dues notice and returned to John (with the dues payments) by February 15.
- Annual Dinner - will be a Buffet Brunch at the Coach and Paddock in Clinton on Sunday, March 23 (Palm Sunday) starting at noon. We will charge \$12 a head and Joanne will be in charge of collecting the money ahead of time.

### New Business

- Nominations Meeting/Pot Luck Luncheon - Sunday, February 15. Anna will try to get speaker. There will be a pot-luck luncheon after the meeting. Barbara G will coordinate the food and collect the \$2 per person fee.
- TED (April 20). We will basically re-do the flier from previous years, changing the minimum age of puppies to 3 months and adding the phrase "Take the First Step Toward a Tracking Title" to the top. The flier will be put out at Princeton's trial and at any subsequent event which members will be attending.

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## Nominations

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Anna Burbank, Barbara Greenfield, and Mollie Heide, has proposed the following slate of officers and Board members for the 1997-8 year. Additional nominations may be made at the February meeting.

President: ..... Peg Forte  
 Vice President: ..... Barbara Greenfield  
 Treasurer :..... John Etchells  
 Secretary: ..... Mimi Ruch  
 Board: ..... Anna Burbank  
 ..... Pat Etchells  
 ..... Joanne MacKinnon  
 ..... Ralph MacKinnon  
 ..... Linda Riley





## Tawny's TDX

©Martha Windisch

Tawny earned her TDX on a cold November 10, 1996, at Mattaponi Kennel Club's test at Manassas Battlefield Park in Manassas, Virginia. She was the only TDX out of three to pass. Her track was 885 yards long, 3 hours and 40 minutes old, and had 5 turns.

Tawny and I have been training for over four years. She has been a great dog to learn to track with, not because she was easy, but because I really had to learn to read her and to motivate her laid-back attitude. We gradually improved with each of the four TDX tests that we ran until the fifth test we made it all the way!

It was very cold as we drew for track numbers. The TDX handlers actually drew their catalog numbers, thus Tawny was catalog #2 and track #2. After the 6 dogs ran the TD tracks, the judges went with TDX #1, a black German shepherd and his handler. At this time Tawny and I were driven to a farm lane and were told to walk up to lane to wait for the judges. We waited for the judges and hopefully, the tracking dog, to come up over the hill to the right. Tawny was eating grass and chewing on sticks while I was trying not to be nervous. Finally the judges came, but they were not following a dog. The German shepherd had done quite well, but had unfortunately missed a turn near the end.

Now it was our turn and the fact that Tawny was grazing didn't seem to be a good sign. Tawny and I walked with the judges further up the lane and past some farm machinery and a barn. Just downhill from the barn, in a newly mowed field, was my starting flag. I put Tawny's harness on and let her find the article at the flag. She laid down and sniffed it. I took the article and told her to "Track". At first she headed away from the barn, toward the high grass. Then she stopped, sniffed the air and looked around. I told her to "Track" and she started towards the right, parallel to the high cover and then stopped. She sniffed the air again and looked at the spectators on the hill. She then circled back near the flag, stopped to pee, then again looked around. Knowing how Tawny likes to sight-see, I was trying to stay calm. I firmly told her to "Track" and she started tracking

towards the right, made a left turn towards the high grass, and entered the high grass. I knew that she was on track, plus she loves high cover, so I yelled to her "Good girl, get it!" She kept on tracking, made an easy left-turn, ducked through a row of pines with low branches, crossed a small wet ditch, and continued straight through the high cover for a long way. I was watching her closely and wondering if we were passing up turns, articles, or both - but since she was tracking, all I could do was follow and concentrate on her body language. Unknown to me, we had already made it through both of the cross-tracks.

We then exited the high cover and went through a hedgerow. We were at the corner of a large mowed field when Tawny started circling. The hedge row that we had come through was 20 to 25 yards to our rear. The judges were standing on the other side of the hedgerow, so I figured that the track really did come into the field. I just had no idea where it went so I let Tawny search. She circled and sniffed for what seemed an eternity. I kept telling myself to be patient and let her work it out. I even did my part by backing up so she could search towards the hedgerow. Then she took me by surprise and started tracking to the right, towards the other hedgerow and through it. I had figured that the track would have headed out into the field, but instead, it only cut the corner of it.

So far, we had tracked over 400 yards with no article. Again I thought that maybe we had missed an article; and maybe the judges hadn't noticed? Well, there had been no whistle, so I followed Tawny into a gully and through a stream at the bottom. Tawny likes solving the problem of obstacles so I was hoping that the track really went into the gully. To be sure, I waited within the gully as Tawny climbed the bank into the next field. Boy, was she on! I barely made it up the bank without reaching the end of my line; and then, a strand of briars grabbed my sleeve. I had to tell Tawny to "wait" so I wouldn't yank the line. Fortunately she understands "wait" quite clearly from our backpacking trips (I'm such a clumsy hiker!), so she waited. When I told her to again "Track", she



immediately found a bandanna, article #1. When a relief to find an article! I praised her, scratched her back, and rested for a bit. When my heart slowed to a reasonable rate, I commanded "Track" and Tawny tracked to the barbed-wire fence at the edge of the field.

She went under the fence and immediately turned around and came back. I figured that maybe the track didn't go under the fence, so I encouraged her to search around the edge of the field. As I was wondering if this was to be our downfall, Tawny went under the fence. I crawled on my knees to follow and heard the judges confidently moving up. My knees then felt a prickly cover. Tawny was gingerly tracking through a field of prickles with her nose not too close to the ground. That explained why she had, at first, changed her mind about going past the fence. Tawny hates briars so I wasn't sure how long she would keep tracking. Fortunately, I had been treating her dry pads with a pad-conditioner for the last few weeks, so maybe the thorns wouldn't hurt too much. She then made a right turn without much trouble, except that she was tracking so slow and gingerly that she was hard to read. Then she stopped! Just as I thought she had quit, I realized that she had retrieved an eyeglass case - article #2.

We rested for a bit longer than we had rested after the first article, Tawny didn't want much water, but I sure needed a drink. As I caught my breath and told her to "Track", I couldn't imagine how much farther the glove could be. My nerves and I were ready to find it and be done. Fortunately during the next 185 yards, the briars thinned out and we entered medium-high cover. Tawny followed the track as it turned right. She started tracking fast. She then raised her head and started lunging towards the glove. At that time, I also saw the glove and raced her to it. We tugged, I threw it, and she ran to retrieve. She did such a good job! She's retired from obedience and tracking now, but will still get to run fun tracks.

I would like to thank the following people for laying tracks for Tawny and/or for their invaluable advice and suggestions: Cindy Adametz, my husband Andy, Lynn Stahl, Nancy Dunnigan, Joyce Lindloff, Allison Platt, John Rice, Romaine Halupa, Gail Benson, Louise Brong, Debbie Gatier, Bill Sitler, Tom Sitler, Richard Sitler, Thomas

Reese, Carolyn Smith, Mary Legge, Roseanne Muscitella, Salle Richards, Maureen Foley, and members of Lenape Tracking Club.

## **I Never Saw the Vehicle ... Crunch -**

reprinted from the State Farm Insurance Newsletter via Orlando DTC via Oklahoma City OTC, OCOTC Courier via Des Moines DTC "Waggin' Tales"

That's what Highway Patrol officers hear more than 600,000 times a year when a car is struck from behind or the side by a vehicle in the "blind spot."

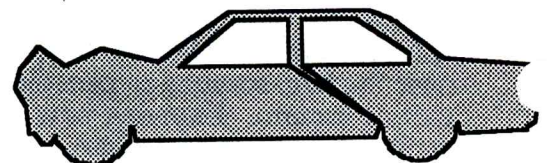
Experts say most of these accidents could be avoided if people would adjust their side view mirrors properly. Most people tend to adjust their mirrors so they can see the sides of their own car while sitting in the driver's seat. That alignment leaves a blind spot for cars that are passing you on either side.

Here's the solution: To adjust the left side mirror, place your cheek against the side window and adjust the mirror until you can just barely see the left side of your car. To adjust the right mirror, sit in the center of the front seat and move the mirror until you can barely see the right side.

Once you have done that, you won't be able to see either side of your own car while sitting in your driver's seat. But the important thing is you'll be able to see cars approaching from your rear on either side.

The vehicles will be in your side-view mirrors before they leave your rear view mirror. And they'll be in your peripheral vision before they leave your side-view mirrors. By adjusting your mirrors properly, you can make you you'll always know what's going on around you while you're driving.

And you'll never say ... "I never saw the vehicle."





## Where is your Dog this Evening

reprinted from the newsletter of the Greater Kansas City Dog Training Club via the Des Moines Obedience Training Club's Waggin' Tales

Where does your dog sleep at night? If your answer is "in the bedroom on the floor," you probably already know the gist of this article. If your reply is "in the basement," "tied in the kitchen," or "in bed with me," read on.

### The Value of In-Bedroom Sleeping

Of all the many training exercises that can be taught to a dog, "sleep therapy" is the easiest. You don't have to do much except let the dog in and out of the room and keep the whole experience in the room as low-key as possible. But this is a time when a lot is happening, from the dog's point of view. The dog is enjoying an extended period of time with your scent. The bedroom contains the most intense scents. They focus on the bed itself, especially in the center of the bed. This is why owners should be discouraged from allowing their dog on the bed. If you allow the dog on the bed, you may discover the middle of the mattress chewed up. Some contact with the owner's scent is beneficial, too much contact can backfire. The rest of the bedroom is a fragrant delight. The closet houses shoes and socks, the rug on the floor is walked on by bare feet, and the drapes are touched constantly. For your dog, the in-bedroom sleep is a "high" - but a high that must be properly regulated and controlled.

It is a time when the owner and dog can have extended contact without demanding anything from each other. It is a time when the majority of dogs make their own decision to lie down and relax with you, to shut down, turn off, sleep. This in itself, while deceptively uneventful, builds trust and confidence between owner and dog. Consequently, the in-bedroom sleep can be a great help if you are experiencing problems with hyperactivity, social isolation, lack of rapport, night barking and whining, or general unruliness. Most "problem dogs" are forced to sleep outside of the bedroom, usually in the living room, basement, outdoors, or significantly, just outside the bedroom door. For the owner without much time for a pet, it can be a final moment of contact and attention.

### Bedroom Deportment.

Your pooch is in the room and you're ready to retire. While it is best to have trained your dog to lie down in advance, it is surprising how even the most hyperactive dogs will tend to plop down as soon as the lights are shut off. Allow no jumping on the bed or other horseplay. Discipline this by curtly removing the dog from the bed and depositing it on the floor with a short "Off!"

Provide a spot for the dog with a small rug or blanket. The best policy is to have the dog lie down, to ignore it, and to go about preparing to retire. Do not make a fuss over the dog. This is a time of quiet, uncomplicated interaction between you and your dog. It is a time when you let the dog into your private "den" - but not to disrupt it. Most dogs will simply find a wall and lie down against it. As long as it is not inconvenient for you, let the dog pick the spot.

Finally turn off the lights. This is usually the final sign-off. If you have problems with packing or hyperactivity, try turning off the lights and telling the dog to lie down. The majority will circle in a holding pattern for a few revolutions, and then land for the night.



The canine privilege of inhabiting the master's den is just that - a privilege. Don't allow your dog to abuse it. In general, it is a good idea to keep the dog away from the top of the bed but still in the bedroom. Dog owners who enjoy a long "goodnight" scene of ritual bedroom romp are inviting trouble and canceling out the potential benefits that stem from an in-bedroom sleep. Don't go overboard. Allow your dog to share your den, but not take it over.