



Common Scents

January/February, 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nominations Meeting

..... Saturday, February 13

Board Meeting

..... Saturday, February 13

Annual Meeting

..... Sunday, March 14

TED

..... Saturday, April 10

General Meeting

..... Saturday, April 10

TED Follow-up

..... Saturday, April 24

..... Sunday, May 2

..... Saturday, May 15

VST Test

..... Sunday, June 20

Board Meeting

..... Sunday, June 20

Picnic

..... Saturday, July 10

General Meeting

..... Saturday, July 10

Tracklayer Certification

..... Saturday, August 7

Board Meeting

..... August TBA

Certification Workshop

..... Sunday, September 26

General Meeting

..... Sunday, September 26

Board Meeting

..... October TBA

TD Test

..... Sunday, November 7

General Meeting

..... Sunday, November 7

TDX Test

..... Sunday, November 14

Board Meeting

..... Sunday, November 14

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It's Groundhog Day and by now we all know if Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and whether we will have six more weeks of winter! In any case, we have made it half way through winter. The days are getting noticeably longer and soon the air and ground will be warming up. Sounds like it will be time for our thoughts to turn to tracking as Spring arrives.

The Board met recently and scheduled a full slate of activities for the Club this year. Please note that this year we have 3 tests (TD, TDX, & VST) and a certification workshop scheduled for the Club, which brings me to a point. As you may know, the tests and certification workshop are financial loss leaders for the Club, but they are what we were founded to do. The Board has been looking at ways we can reduce the losses. You may be interested to know, that in some cases it is cheaper to fly in a judge that to have them drive in from New England or Western



PA. In order to offset these losses, we look to our Tracking Experience Day (TED) and our training classes to make a profit. To make TED a success we need your help. We plan to offer at least 24 slots this year with the option of increasing that to 30 if we have the people power to make it happen. The difference between 24 and 30 can impact the number of events we can put on each year. So when Anna Burbank, this year's chairperson, contacts you, please be sure to volunteer to help.

One additional note. We are returning to the Lebanon Municipal complex for this year's TED. Unfortunately, we were preempted from using Camp Tecumseh by the Salvation Army (the owners of the camp) this year. Hopefully, we will be able to return there next year.

Meeting Information
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President – John Etchells * **Vice President** – Anna Burbank

Secretary – Carol Shields * **Treasurer** – Pat Etchells

Board Members – Alice Crans – Gina DeAlmeida – Janet Doerer – Peg Forte – Joan Luckhardt

Editor - Pat Etchells, deerhill.tracking@gmail.com

Another change instituted by the Board this year was the newsletter surcharge in conjunction this the annual dues. Let me fill you in on the Board's thinking about this. Over the last few years we have been increasingly using the Lenape Yahoo List. In addition to allowing members to ask questions and share brags and sorrows, the list also serves as a way for the Club to quickly communicate with the members who have joined the list. For the last few years, we have been making the newsletter available to club members through the list. Last summer, we offered members the chance to "opt out" of receiving a paper copy of newsletter in preference of the electronic version stored on the

Yahoo List. In looking at the costs, the Board realized that we are spending about a dollar a newsletter to produce and mail a hard copy, while the cost to post and distribute the newsletter through the list is zero. Just do the math - 6 newsletters a year times a dollar each comes to \$6 per member a year. Then times that by 55 members is \$330 per year! Therefore, in order to encourage members to enjoy the newsletter via the list - it is produced in color there - we instituted a surcharge to offset most of the printing and mailing costs associated with the paper newsletter.

As mentioned above, we will be holding our first VST this year. It is scheduled for June 20th

and will be held at Ramapo College in Mahawh NJ. It will be a daytime test and we are planning a total of 4 tracks. Our judges will be Ed Presnall and Mary Thompson.

Following up on my last newsletter, we have established a Website committee composed of Pat Etchells, Joan Luckhardt and Chuck Schultz. They are busily working on their recommendations and we should hear more about what they propose in the future.

Hope to see you at the upcoming nominations and annual meetings! Until next time, keep on tracking.

John

MEET THE BOARD



I grew up on a farm in Morris County for the better part of my life with many different animals. As a child, my parents had boxers. I remember long play dates with 2 big male boxers in a small play house in our yard. I did every thing from dressing them up to painting their toe nails. Those boys tolerated everything this small child threw at them. My family always had dogs & they were always BIG ones...

During high school & college I raised, trained & boarded horses. Ended up competing in conformation/performance with quarter horses & Appaloosas for 18 years. There were always dogs at our house & they were always following me around. Some of the breeds we had were Great Danes, Dobermans, St Bernards, Rhodesian Ridgebacks & Rotweillers. All were rescues & all were wonderful.

Unfortunately, my last 2 dogs, both Rotties, did not live past 5 years old. So, after deciding this was my breed of choice, my current Rottweiler came to me from a reputable breeder.

Just in the last 12 years, I began showing dogs in obedience & rally. In 2002 I started as a TED participant at Lenape, at the suggestion of a good friend who was an obedience judge, Gloria Blatt. This was an introduction, I thanked her for many times before her recent passing. I

thoroughly enjoy working one on one with my dog & watching him use a natural God given ability. I think it's so rewarding to see animals enjoy themselves while working a track. The bond that develops between dog & human when it's just the 2 of you out on the tracking field is priceless. Tracking is an event that continues to dominate my time with my dog, and I hope it stays that way for many years!!!

Recently, we have entered the breed ring & we are starting Schutzhund work (German performance), so we can work on the German FH tracking title this year. Currently, we are working toward our VST title. I think a CT title (champion tracker) would be a wonderful accomplishment. I'm confident we can achieve this elusive title in the near future!!

Happy Tracking!!

Gina DeAlmeida

TIDBITS

PEG FORTE's **Torrie** was entered in the Mayflower Corgi Club's first all breed Obedience and Rally Trials in Tauton, MA, to try for two more RAE legs. She qualified in all four classes earning a 4th place in Advanced B on Sat. Because the club is a specialty Club the AKC required it to also pin the Corgis in the classes separately. Torrie earned a second and three firsts and now has 4 RE legs. They also gave a prize to the highest scoring corgi each day in Rally and to my surprise her 95 held up on Saturday to get that award.



DONNA HESS reports that her Aussie **Gunner** had a good 2009. He earned his CD RN NA NF, ASCA CD (one leg was a HIT) RS-N JS-N. All the titles were mostly in the ribbons, with lots of blue and red ones!!



JOAN LUCKHARDT's Golden Retriever **Phlaire** earned her CDX in December.

At the Princeton DTC Trial, CHERYL MATTHEWS' Lab **Grady** won a run-off for a 2nd place in Novice B with a 196. The next day at K-9, he finished his RA title with a score of 98.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 14 at the Spinning Wheel Diner – Route 22 Eastbound – at the Lebanon/Whitehouse border.
www.spinningwheeldiner.com

We are trying to simplify things this year. The charge for members will be \$20 and for non-members, \$25. You will be able to order any entrée from the menu up to \$15 (which includes about 99% of the menu), dessert and beverage. The Club will subsidize the tax and tip.

The diner needs a count of how many people to plan for, but you can pay the Club when you get there. If you are coming, give Pat Etchells a call at 908-236-2423 or email Deerhill.tracking@gmail.com by Sunday, March 7.

Our members were very successful on the tracking fields last year, so we have a lot to celebrate!

NOMINATIONS MEETING

The Nominations Meeting will start at 5:00 on Saturday, February 13, at the Lebanon Township Municipal Building.

Nancy Grove is coordinating a Pot Luck Supper. If you are planning to come, drop her an e-mail at fuzbutz2@verizon.net or call 908-454-7292.

The program following dinner will be presented by Lenape member Rose Mary Laubach and will deal with Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs. Topics include:

- * Overview of getting your dog certified
- * How do you choose a venue at which to visit
- * Things to do on a visit
- * Basic components to a test
- * Review of the scoring system
- * Questions and answers
- * Lots of stories (bring tissues)



RICO'S TD REPORT

by Susan Palius

Rico drew into the Capitol DTC TD test at Oaklands, in Leesburg, VA so off we went Saturday in the snowstorm. Sunday morning we got up at 5:00, pottied in the freezing cold dark, climbed back in bed and snuggled while I drank my coffee, packed up all the throws I had brought into the hotel to protect it from wet doggie paws and left the hotel by 7. The sun was just rising, temps were just below freezing and there was no wind. There was 2-4 inches of new snow on the ground, meaning the tracks would be 100% visible. Best of all, the conditions were just about perfect for big sporting dogs.

Rico drew the 3rd track. On track 1 was a lab who made short work of it. Track 2 was a weim who carefully and methodically worked from flag to glove.

We waited 20 mins and then our track was sufficiently aged to start. Rico picked up the start article, dropped it and then motored the first leg -- all 195 yards of it. He circled a little and then turned convincingly to the left and motored down a 55 yard leg. He overshot the next corner by about 10 feet but circled and quickly picked up the track, another left turn. Then he started wondering if maybe it would be more fun to do some hunting and considered going in another direction so I resented him and he got back to work. He did a lot of quartering on this leg (which he does when he's a little bored; when he's ON he tracks golden style, i.e., nose down, tail

wagging furiously), cut the next corner to the right but picked up the track as he crossed it. Then he really thought about doing some hunting and I told him in my sternest voice to find his glove. For a moment I thought it was all over and we'd be whistled for stopping working as he looked to me like he had given up and we were at least 30 feet off the track, but then (just in the nick of time I later found out from the judges) he decided to get back to tracking and he put his nose in the air, sniffed once and then beelined right back onto the track. As much as I love my goldens, I have to say I was never so glad to have an air scented dog. And boy was it cool to watch!

Rico overshot the last corner by about 5 feet but air scented back to it. He motored for about 50 yards and then began to lose interest and wander, so once again I asked him to find his glove. But I could see he was distracted by some other wonderful scent and wandered to the right of the track and then started moving in the reverse direction. Of course I had no choice but to wander with him -- I wasn't going to refuse to move and be called for guiding -- but I think the tracking gods were really on our side because as I stepped backwards I fell into a critter hole, right up to my knee which made me fall down -- Rico came in to check out what had happened and as he caught scent of the track he remembered what he was there to do (yeah!!) and I told him

"GOOD BOY, FIND YOUR GLOVE." He motored right past me and when the line was approaching 20 feet I scrambled out of the critter hole and followed him 30 more yards and then he picked up the glove! 455 yards; 10 minutes flag to glove, although the last third of the track felt like an eternity and surely put a few more gray hairs on my head.

So it wasn't the prettiest track I've ever run, but I was pleased that I was able to read him and also to refocus him. He's been acing his tracks since his cert (I've called in every favor I had to get blind tracks to practice on) so I have to think yesterday I had test nerves and that threw him. By earning his TD in the same year he earned his CH and RN he became eligible for a very prestigious versatility award from his national breed club and I really wanted it for his breeder. And this had been our only chance as we are 9th alternate at the last remaining TD test in the northeast this year.



Jerry was about 72nd alternate in the TDX test so his activity for the day had been to meet and greet. But at the last minute the alternate TD dog couldn't come and the alt track was just sitting there, so with the judges' permission I ran Jerry on it, just for fun. Maybe 3 1/2 minutes flag to glove -- and that included 3 stops for Jerry to

consider the birds -- and me to catch my breath :-))

Of course we owe a HUGE thanks to judges Susan Boyd and Elizabeth Goodbody as well as the amazing folks at Capitol DTC who braved absolutely miserable freezing cold, soaking wet conditions on Saturday to plot the tracks. Yes,

of course, seeing the tracks helped all the teams, if for no other reason than the handlers knew with 100% certainty when their dog was correct and that confidence traveled right down the line. Nonetheless, it was great to be able to reward this club's hard work with such a nice pass rate -- 3 out of 3 TD's and 3 out of 4 TDX's.

TRACKING TECHNOLOGY

By Chuck Shultz

Part 1 - High Definition Video
Anyone who has seen my car or house knows that I love toys, and the higher tech, the better. I was inspired by Lisa Harper's SAR Technology website, <http://www.k9sartech.org>, to pick up a couple of goodies last year and I wanted to share my experiences with fellow trackers. In this article, I'll be talking about how I'm using a high-definition camera, the GoPro HD Helmet Hero. I'm not a salesman for this company, so keep in mind that there are other cameras out in the marketplace. However, I'm not sure that there are any others with the combination of features that make this one so good for what we do.

Why bother with this? First off, I'm finding it very useful to go back and study my dogs' motions-negative indications, air scenting, things like that. Plus, I value having a record of what my dogs do.

The Hardware

The HD Hero is very compact. The photo here shows just how small it is, comparing it to a deck of playing cards. It's designed for use by extreme athletes, people who jump out of airplanes, race cars, surf...you know, fun things like that. Even so, it has features that make it useful for the more

subdued sport in which we engage.



There are only two buttons on the camera and no monitor. One button is for power; the other for starting and stopping the recording. You use the two buttons together to adjust the various settings. It doesn't come with a monitor, since they expect you to mount the unit to your hang-glider, press the button to start recording, then pay attention to where you're flying. You can purchase a separate monitor, but I don't see a need for it when tracking.

The camera comes with a bunch of attachments that allow it to be mounted onto just about anything. The clear casing has two types of back doors-the one with no holes in it makes the camera waterproof and bombproof. The one with holes in it allows for better audio pick-up.

Included is a strap that goes around your head, positioning the camera on your forehead with the lens pointing directly down the lead at your dog. That strap felt awkward and it seemed to bounce around, causing a bumping noise to show up on the audio track. So, I ended up riveting one of the mounts that came with the camera to the top of an old hockey helmet. This stopped the bumping noise, but I'm finding that on TDX tracks I have to be careful when going under tree branches and climbing through fences that I don't bump the camera and cause it to lose sight of the dog.



The camera can take still pictures, but I've used it mostly for moving videos. It has 5 different moving video settings

and I've found that the standard definition works best, since it also gives the widest viewing angle. This is important for keeping the dog in the camera's field of view. This setting also produces the smallest video files and I'll discuss shortly how important that is.

The camera comes with a built-in microphone to pick up audio. This is nice because I can talk during the track, in essence, keeping audio "notes" of what's happening. When I review the videos later on, I've found these notes to be useful in reminding me what was going on at the time. The camera's battery is rated to last 2-1/2 hours. So far, I've found that to be more than adequate for a day's worth of tracking.

I Think We're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat

OK, the quote is from the first Jaws film. It's relevant here because you need to have a computer that is fast enough to play the huge files the camera creates and has enough storage to hold them. A half hour TDX run can use almost 2GB of storage space. That's not a typo- 2 Gigabytes, as in 2,000,000,000 bytes. My PC at home struggles to play the raw files; it plays the audio at normal speed, but the video in slow motion. The two quickly get out of sync. One way around this is to plug the camera directly into my HD TV and play back the Hi-Def files that way. What I can't do in that case is stop and rewind the videos-the camera isn't designed to do that.

There's also the issue of long-term storage. Even though my PC has plenty of room left on the 500GB disk drive, that won't last for long. I may very well end up having to get a new PC with a Blu-Ray disk burner on it, for long-term storage of these videos.

How Much For One of These?

Surprisingly, the GoPro Hero only costs about \$300. It doesn't come with a memory card, but I picked up a 16GB SD card for about \$35. Thanks to Gail Thompson, who helped figure out that when you order the camera on the GoPro website (www.gopro.com), if you add it to your shopping cart and begin the checkout process, but only go as far as giving them your email address, then just stop and wait for an hour, they'll email you a coupon. Use the number on the coupon when checking out and they'll give you 10% off, plus free shipping. The 10% pretty much paid for the SD card I needed. If you have an SD card from another tech toy, you can use it with this camera.

What If?

If the files weren't so huge, I'd edit them to put in a title page at the beginning and a copyright/credits page at the end, similar to what you'd see

on a Hollywood movie. What would be really nice would be something you see on football games-the production crew adds in a blue and a yellow line across the field showing the line of scrimmage and the first down marker. I'd like to have an easy way to paint such a line onto my videos to show where the track goes. As I move the camera back and forth, the line would stay locked to the ground, as the dog goes back and forth over it.

Even as they are, I find that having these videos is a real asset. My two girls have very different tracking styles and I'm learning to read them better by studying these videos.

And even though my days of jumping out of airplanes and racing motorcycles are pretty much over, I suspect that having an HD camera will be useful for things other than tracking. Next time, I'll talk about a GPS system I've been using to make track maps.

