



# Common Scents

November/December, 2010

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As the year draws to a close, I am happy to report that we successfully completed the TD and TDX tests. For the TD, we had 19 dogs entered, ran ten tracks with four club members' dogs earning titles. For the TDX test, we had 14 enter, six ran and one dog earned its TDX!

First, let me say thanks to all those who helped with these tests. We could not have done it without you. You made the four new TDs and one TDX possible.

Some lessons learned -- As you know, this year we expanded the number of TD tracks to nine and TDX to six to maximize the number of slots we could offer to working club members through the test worker option. These tests proved to me what a valuable option this is for club members. For the TD test, we had four members qualify and draw for three of the tracks. That worked out to a 75% chance of making the draw. All four did get in, with last person

being picked from the regular draw. For the TDX we had two members qualify and draw for two slots. In this case they had a 100% chance of making the draw! That is unheard of for a TDX test, given club members' talk of being the 20th alternate in some tests. Now from year to year those percentages will change depending upon the number of tracks offered and the number of working club members who are ready and want to run in a test. But in any case, the odds are stacked in the favor of those qualifying for working club member.

Nevertheless, the new worker option also presented some challenges. With working members entered, they could not help out at the test in which they were entered. In all cases, the folks who ran in one test did help out with the other test. However, in the past many worked both. Luckily, we had a bunch of newer members who stepped up to the plate to help out, and we were able to cover all the tracklaying and hospitality jobs. However, in



the future, we will need more of you to help. We were barely able to cover judges' transportation and had no resources to help participants get from track to track or back to headquarters. Luckily no one got lost, but it was hectic at times.

Finally, let Pat and me wish you a very happy holiday season!

Until next time, keep on tracking.

*John*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**TED 2011.....** Saturday, April 9

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**Board Members** – Jim Bunderla – Gina DeAlmeida – Janet Doerer – Peg Forte – Joan Luckhardt

**Editor** – Pat Etchells, [deerhill.tracking@gmail.com](mailto:deerhill.tracking@gmail.com)

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## MEET THE EARLY MEMBERS

Charlotte Schwartz – Joined 1976



The 1970s. Has it been almost forty years since I began tracking with my dogs? It feels like just last year! I still talk tracking, think wind speed and direction, keep a watchful eye out for ideal tracking fields. I still teach my advanced obedience students how to train

their dogs for scent work in locating common items such as household things (misplaced remotes, eyeglasses, cell phones, car keys, etc.). I've even taught my little Poodle, Blackberry, to locate my cane when I forget where I left it.

In short, I'm still in awe of how, why, and when dogs use their olfactory abilities to locate animals, people, things and invisible odors such as cancer, epilepsy, diabetes, heart problems, storms and earthquakes.

For me it all began when my little Miniature Schnauzer, Angel, and I spent a long

weekend with Glen Johnson, the renowned tracker from Ontario, Canada. Angel was a natural. She earned her TD on the first try. Then there was Royal, the first Ibizan Hound to earn a TD in the US. I also taught a number of TEDs and always enjoyed sharing my knowledge and enthusiasm with other dogs and owners.

To the trackers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, I send my best wishes for the most wonderful experience of a lifetime. May you enjoy the wonders of your dog and tracking for many years to come. Now, let's "go find it"!

## DYNA & THE MOLE

By Lillian Puchalski

We pulled up in the car. I was told my track was there and the judges were waiting. I pulled Dyna out of the car and all I could think of was, "make sure your line is straightened out."

We got into the field, and there were the starting flags and the judges. At that point my legs turned to rubber. I got her harness line straight and drew a total blank. She sniffed the sock, and I convinced her it was not play time.

I started out on the track and made it past the second flag. At the first turn she got wind of something I knew was not the track as she gave no indication, then she went back and forth. But I held my ground as I saw her suddenly jump up and pounce. That's when she looked up at me with a mole in her mouth. Panic set in! I could not tell her to drop it because "Drop" meant hit the

ground when we are working in Open. There I am screaming at her to "Spit it out, Spit it out." I guess the panic in my voice made her realize I was not fooling. She did.

As the usual wild unpredictable "DYNA," she got back to tracking and almost knocked me off my feet when she got on the track. At that point I said, "Okay Girl I Trust You." What else could I do? Off she went.

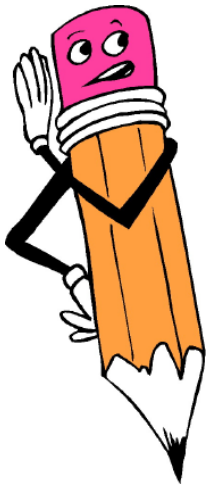
She seemed to be right on with no problem for the next three turns. At that point she kept moving. It seemed like forever until she slowed down and was looking at something. Before I could say anything she kept on going. When I came to it, I saw a large brown leaf. Then all of a sudden she did her sideways butt flip and started to paw. She looked up at me as if to say "Where's the Pup-Peroni?" I

knew it was the glove and finally started to breathe again. I picked it up and waved it and tried to remember not to throw it in the air because that's what we always did in training. I always said this dog is going to be the death of me yet. Tears started to fall, and judges said all was well.

I still ask myself why do we put ourselves through this?



## TIDBITS



HOWARD CUSTER's Chessies, Custer's Major Fred CGC (**Fred**) and Custer's Commander Ginger CGC (**Ginger**) both earned RN titles this fall, with legs at Valley Forge (4th

place for Fred and 2nd place for Ginger), and the two trials at the Potomac Chesapeake Dog Training Club. And his Bichon **Kirk** (Custer's Admiral Kirk CGC RE) earned his first CD leg.

**Toro**, GINA DeAlmeida's Rottie, was BOS at the Morris & Essex show – the first time he was shown as a special!



JANET DOERER finished the MACH on her Malinois **Chase** on October 1 in Freehold. Then he got two more QQs at trials the same weekend.



SANDY HAMBRECHT'S 6-year-old mini-smooth Dachshund **Fox** passed his CGC on 11/3.



ROSE LAUBACH's 21-month old Golden Retriever **Hope** finished her UKC CD in late October. It was her first time in the obedience ring and she finished in three shows. Here Hope is "doing what comes naturally" at an agility class, where she was a therapy reading dog for the instructor's daughter. She would listen to her read, jump up and do her run, then run back and lay down to continue being read to.



It's a JH title for CHERYL MATTHEWS' Labrador Retriever **Grady**, earned in four straight tests.



CHRIS SPINIELLO's Dobie **Bogey** passed his BH test. The Begleithund, or "Companion Dog" is the first Schutzhund title, which is now recognized by the AKC. The BH test is a bit more extensive than the AKC CD, and a dog is required to pass it before going on to compete for the Schutzhund One.



JUDY TODD reports that at the South Jersey Kennel Club dog show on October 24, 2010, her 8-year old Border Terrier **Raisin** (Ch. Stonecroft Raising A TallyHo, SE, RE, CGC; AWTA, WC and CG; BTCOA Versatility Excellent) was BOB Veteran and then went on to take Veteran Terrier Group First.





## TD TEST

Reports by Pat Etchells – Photos by Jim Bunderla, Nancy Grove & John Etchells

On the first Saturday in November, judges Luci Seeley and Romaine Halupa put down tracks for nine entrants and one alternate. Four dogs ended up with new TD titles the next day.

Without the support of a large number of our members, a successful day like this would not have occurred.

Thanks to:

Paperwork:

Anna Burbank  
Pat Etchells

Tracklayers:

Howard Custer  
Sandy Hambrecht  
George Laubach  
Joyce Miller  
Martha Windisch  
John Etchells (Chief)

Judge Hospitality:

Joyce Miller

Event Hospitality:

Rosemary Laubach

Judge Transport:

Joan Luckhardt

Fields:

Chris Spiniello

Photography:

Jim Bunderla  
Nancy Grove

Trophies:

Carol Shields



**Jim Bunderla & Gus  
Farm Fresh BR Jersey Supreme**



**Lillian Puchalski & Dyna  
Larlill Tirnanog Wild One CD/RE**



**Joan Luckhardt & Belle  
Brigg's Amber Belle CD/RE**



**Chris Spiniello & Bogey  
Blue Chip Reign of Fame, RN**



**The gallery trying to stay warm**



**Tracklayer with the stinkiest feet.  
Howard Custer**

## TDX TEST

Before November 14, there had been only one dog in history to have passed on a Lenape TDX track. Now there are two! Judges Susan Boyd and Stephanie Crawford plotted six great tracks, and Linda Boncek's 10-year-old Golden Retriever O-Jay's Legacy for Beamer TD (Beacon) put his nose to the ground on one of them to reach the final glove and revel in cheers from everyone!



A big thanks goes out to all the members who made this event such a success.

### Paperwork:

Anna Burbank

### Tracklayers:

Jim Bunderla

Gina DeAlmeida

Pat Etchells

Nancy Grove

Gerry Harmer

Pat Losco

Joan Luckhardt

John Etchells (Chief)

### Hospitality:

Melanie Dubberley

Joyce Miller

### Fields:

Chris Spiniello

### Trophies:

Carol Shields

## A TD FOR GUS

By Jim (one tired puppy) Bunderla

Lenape's TD test, November 7, 2010. 45 degrees with 15 to 20 m.p.h. winds. It was cold and windy, and I had drawn the first track. Oh goodie, let's throw in another quart of butterflies. We started off well, Gus did not eat the start article and made a beeline for the second flag. Apparently he felt the second flag was an article and did not want to go on until he was praised for finding it. He got tangled around the flagstaff, managed to knock the flag off the pole and indicated the flag when it hit the ground. Gus also took some time to stand and watch a buzzard that was circling overhead. We spent about ten minutes at the flag, and it dawned on me to tell him, "Good boy, find more." Gus was off and running finally.

He did a beautiful first and second turn and had to work the third corner a bit but found the line. He worked down the line, wind at our backs, and we were almost at the end of the field when he decided to work

back and off to the left of the track. We backed up about 30 yards, and he started looking for the track again. Back off we went again in the original direction but only about ten yards or so this time. Gus worked his way back again but on the right side this time. I managed to stumble and drop the lead but took a couple of fast steps, stepped on it and recovered. Gus worked back to me, and we backed up on the original line about three yards when he wheeled around to the right and took off like a shot. He went about twenty yards and then literally leaped about five feet forward and belly flopped on the glove. Thank you, Tracking Gods!! My head is still spinning.

One more thing. The judges asked me what the story was with the buzzard. I said I was standing still for so long that the buzzard thought I was dead and was just waiting for Gus to leave so he could have lunch.

I want to thank my wife Nancy who has been working Gus for me since my back surgery last March. She has really brought him along, and I would not be writing this if she hadn't done a really great job with him. I would also like to thank our training partners (Judy, Sandy, Pat & John) and "coach" Teryl Lebkuecher. Also, a huge thank you to Howard for laying the track. Thank you to all the club members who worked the test.





## MY FIRST TRACKING TEST, MY FIRST TD

by Christine Spiniello



A friend who was also competing in the tracking test, stayed at my house the night before the long-awaited event. In the morning, she asked if I was nervous. I said, "no." Neither one of us could believe that I was calm. My friend admitted that *she* was nervous, and asked why I wasn't. I gave that question quite a bit of thought.

I ended up telling her that if we didn't pass this time, we could always try again. What was important was not the passing but the experience that Bogey and I shared in the process. Since he and I had only been tracking for 6 months, I honestly didn't feel that we were ready... but then again, I *never* feel I'm ready for anything. Bogey really likes tracking. I figured .... why not give it a go?

After many early mornings of training, the big moment arrived. It was a sunny, cold and windy day. I drew the alternate track, which was Track 10 and the last track of the day. Three teams passed before it was our turn. That meant that six did not pass. Hummm... were the odds against us?

One of the things I noticed when getting to each field that day was the type and condition of the cover. My friend got one of the "brown" fields that looked basically dead and as if it wouldn't hold the scent as well as a green field. I felt bad for her. Well, when I saw "my" field, I felt even worse! It was even **more** brown and dead than hers. I told myself to try my best not to be nervous. I ate some mints so Bogey wouldn't notice my growing anxiety.

Admittedly, I don't have much experience doing blind tracks. My dog and I are both novices. Typically, I like to know where the track is so I can guide him (or at least not steer him wrong). Needless to say, going out into the big TEST field and not knowing where I was going was a bit daunting. "Trust your dog," I've been told. A friend did that earlier in the day and HER dog lied to her :-)

Unfortunately, my dog likes deer poop. There was a lot of deer poop in the field! Should I trust that Bogey would stick to the tracklayer's track, or worry that he might focus on the deer poop? Bogey is used to eating on the track while training. He's usually snacking on treats that I put down for him and well, okay, sometimes deer poop too. Now we were out on the "real" track with no treats and only deer poop and some old foot steps. Can you feel my apprehension?

After what felt like an eternity of waiting for the last track, I put on his tracking clothes. When we got near the flag, I started to let the line out. Bogey took the line and headed directly to the first flag with confidence. I think he was disappointed to find an old sock

at the flag instead of some hot dogs, so for the next thirty yards I had to coax him to get going. Onward we went! Basically Bogey did follow the track, with a few stops for deer poop tidbits and a bit of cheerleading from me.

At one point Bogey got distracted. I panicked when I could not get his attention. I knew we were on the home stretch, and I was really sweating it out. I wasn't sure what to do, so I used a word that I usually use only in agility to rev him up. I put energy in my voice and said, "ready, ready, ready!" Well, Bogey looked up at me and took off, nearly pulling me off my feet! He was on the track, and he went directly to the glove. I was so excited! I was cheering him, but then remembered that some judges don't look kindly on that, so I continued praising him in a quieter tone. I grabbed the glove and held it up to show everyone we found it. The crowd cheered! Bogey was excited too.

At that point I wasn't quite sure what I was supposed to do with the article on an AKC track, but I knew what was required in Schutzhund tracking, so I triumphantly held up the glove. It was very exciting. I was so proud of Bogey. I felt grateful to the people who helped me on this journey and certainly for the support on the sidelines. It was intense. It was gratifying. It was successful!

I've been involved with Dobermans since the mid-1970s, and bred my first litter under the "Blue Chip" kennel name in 2000. Blue Chip Dobermans have many breed and working titles to their

credit, but Bogey is the first to get the TD! I'm very proud to be his breeder, owner and handler.

A big "thank you" to all the club members and to the people who worked so hard to host this

event. Everyone was very helpful and supportive, and the food was fantastic!

## BELLE'S TD

By Joan Luckhardt



Belle, now an over-10-year-old Golden, had only been in tracking training about a year or so, although it felt like forever. Belle brought along her usual, and sometimes endearing, neuroses: her lack of focus when nervous, need to be hugged, terror of loud sounds, passion to eat gloves, and desire to roll in deer or groundhog droppings. Belle also casts widely on a track. I had to suspend my anxiety of what could happen if we were to have a chance to find a glove.

We both calmed as we arrived at the Lebanon Township Municipal building, in part because we both had been there a number of times. Belle attended a TED session there years ago - so new smells were less worrisome. She was happy to walk around the 'pond' behind the building as if to say, "it's okay here."

I drew Track 5 but did not know which field we drew, knowing

only that it was nearby. Hence, I would stay at the building while others ran the first four tracks some distance away. The time lag gave me a chance to calm down and give Belle water, which she drank (I was grateful that she did).

Our time came to meet the gallery and judges around the corner at the elementary school. Then we waited some time for the tracklayers and others to return from the other tracks. Belle wanted to greet everyone including Teryl, her coach, by jumping up and stealing a glove or scarf. She wanted to get started and knew why she was there.

The field was across the street in a field the Club has used from time to time for our TED demonstration track. Somehow I could remember only Torrie was our demo dog. I was more at ease, which in turn calmed my usually bouncy Belle. That day the field had nice cover but the wind was high.

The judges said start and we did. Belle had created her own start by sometimes downing on the start article, or retrieving it, or throwing it, usually a sock, in the air, or all three. Belle did her own toss, down and start. Off she went but then she came back toward me on the first leg with a "am I doing okay" look. I told her to "find it" and "go" - and she went back down the track. Belle then made the first turn, casting less than usual. Her

confidence in the track seemed to grow as we moved forward. She made a right turn some distance from the woods bounding the track but then, perhaps because of the wind, she made another right in what felt like not quite 50 or so yards (although by that time I'd not a clue how far we had come). I wondered if the wind had blown scent - but "trust your dog" became an internal mantra as we moved up the rise. By this time when weariness can set in, I figured some motivational comment would help - so I said, "where's your glove?" Belle laid into the line and began to pull hard and moved much faster. I was trying not to run but moved faster as she almost hit the end of the line. Belle then made a left turn paralleling the road. Abruptly Belle stopped yards short of a hedgerow and began to bob her head and sniff to her right and to her left, indicating a find. I began to move forward and saw her back paws were standing on the glove; she took a step backward and then downed at the glove. Success! I held up the glove to the cheers of the gallery and the judges, who all complimented us on Belle's work.

