



Common Scents

November/December, 2012



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

**Anna Burbank
Gina DeAlmeida
Janet Doerer
Alyson Fuge
Nancy Grove
Sandy Hambrecht
RoseMary Laubach
George Laubach
Pat Losco
Joan Luckhardt
Chuck Shultz
Judy Todd**

Coming up next year:
VST at Ramapo College
March 17th
Tracking Experience Day
April 13-14th
Tracking classes
being planned

Anna Burbank

DATES TO REMEMBER

VST at Ramapo College 2013
----- Sunday, March 17
TED 2013
- Saturday/Sunday, April 13/14
Certification Workshop 2013
----- Sunday, September 29
TD Test 2013
----- Sunday, October 13
TDX Test 2013
----- Sunday, November 10

flights and found a weekend that they were both available. The TDX went well. No passes, but some very nice working dogs who will certainly go on to earn their Xs. As usual, we had spectacular help putting in a very long Saturday plotting tracks and all day Sunday running tracks, schlepping the gallery around, manning (womaning?) the food table and generally pitching in wherever needed. It takes a village and every village has one special worker who goes the extra mile (thought I was going to say idiot, didn't you?). This time it was Joan Luckhardt who did all of the legwork to get the fields for us. No small feat. Thanks, Joan!

Both judges made very positive comments about the knowledge and experience of our tracklayers. Special thanks (and worker credit!) to all of our TDX workers. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me and let me know so that we can make sure you get worker credit.

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Past President- Peg Forte
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MEET THE EARLY MEMBERS

Lisa Pattison

Raised in the Adirondacks, known for its amazing lakes, I was brought up on a small family farm that provided an early launch pad for my psychological obsession to connect to animals of all shapes and sizes. My obsession continued into college. While attending the Cobleskill SUNY College I absorbed any psychology based electives I could find, including animal training.

I was 30 years old shortly after buying a house. I brought home an Australian shepherd that we named Pattison's Murphy. AKC:TDX,VCD1,HT,TDI,AX ASCA:U.D.T.X, RV-E-OP,GV-E,RS-O,GS-O,JS-N,JVO, NADAC:EAC-V,EGC-V,OAC,OGC,OJC,OJC-V NEDDC: DD,BNDD APDT:RL3. I found my breed right off the bat. The breed was beautiful, busy and brainy so soon I was immersed in dog sports and changing my job in order to compete on weekends. I added two more Aussies to our household. I joined Lenape Tracking Club in 1996 after meeting Lenape members Peg Forte and Molly Heidi, and I started tracking the trio. We competed in water dog work, carting, drafting, skijoring, obedience, herding, Frisbee, backpacking, therapy dog work, rally obedience, canine freestyle, agility, tracking.

What I love about titling is the opportunity to perfect communication with the dog. The requirements to fulfill a title or test continually "raise the bar".

My senior Australian shepherds still wanted to work and while their vision and hearing had diminished, their noses were

unbelievable. Older dogs re-prioritize their reinforcers on a regular basis so we need to be creative with cues and motivations to find tasks to take their enhanced capabilities as far as possible. I found that training for scent on land and in water can be gentle and motivational conditioning methods.

I was recently recognized at the Companion Dog Training Club Of Newburgh workshop for my positive training approach and problem solving methods by many involved in the sport of tracking. It is my pleasure to embrace the older dog's enhanced capabilities in tracking. My original dogs had earned 5 TDs and 4 TDXs and were honored with 2 of the coveted Lenape John Mitkus Tracking awards. My Australian Shepherd Propwashelordanan Wildchild AKC: VCD2- AX, TDX, HSAs,TDI, ASCA:STDcs, OTDd ,U.D.T.X,RS-N,RV-O,GS-N,OG-V, JS-N NADAC:OGC-V,OAC-V,NAC,NJC,NGC, CKC: TD, NEDDC: DDX(driving excellent draft dog),BNDD, Canine Water Sports: TSW WRW, WTW APDT RL3 was the first Aussie to earn her AKC TD at the Australian Shepherd Nationals in 2001. I realized I enjoyed the scentwork so much that I became a Tracking Judge and Certified Nosework Instua Instructor. I am proud of my students who have titled in 20 different Tracking Tests. Since 1996 I have trained with Ivan Balabanov, Jerry Lewis, Celeste Kelly, Deb St Jacques, Peter Hewitt, Ed Presnall, John And Darlene Barnard, Steve White, Dr Stephen Mackenzie, Mike Clemens, Carolyn Wilk, Roy



Hunter, K9 Nose Work Inc, Sandy Ganz, Mary Thompson, John Rice, and Betty Mueller. I have learned a wide scope of techniques that benefit a variety of tracking dog styles. I have promoted tracking through participation and training in workshops and clubs in the Northeast. I have had so much fun starting fellow tracking enthusiasts at these events through the years.

Tracking Training Sessions at Happy Dog Farm in Flemington NJ

December 2009 to present - Organizer and Trainer of Tracking Teams at these weekend sessions. I share videos and photos of these events to help participants progress.

Tracking Training Sessions at Sparta NJ

March 2006 to present - Organizer and Trainer of Tracking Teams at these weekend sessions. I share videos and photos of these events to help participants progress.

Twilight Tracking at Hopewind Farm in NJ

Designed and organized this hands-on tracking educational event which took place August of 2008. Twenty teams, started through advanced, relied on their

dogs to guide them by the light of the full moon. I share videos and photos of these events to help participants progress.

LenapeTracking Experience Days in NJ

Taught various tracking skills to beginning trackers through the years at this annual event.

GSASA Garden State Australian Shepherd Club

Founded a tracking nucleus in this club and trained a core group of members who evolved into the test committees and tracklayers. I share videos and photos of these events to help participants progress.

Garden State Australian Shepherd Association Tracking Match

Organized a match for tracking teams to certify in while simultaneously teaching other trackers the behind the scenes tasks of a tracking trial.

Tracklaying

Taught trackers how to lay marked and unmarked tracks in TD and TDX settings for New Jersey Tracking Tests.

Northern New Jersey Australian Shepherd Club

Established tracking interest in a core group of trackers since January 2006. I share videos and photos of these events to help participants progress.

I thrive on a deep-rooted interest in the science of training animal behavior and enjoy sharing this knowledge and helping canine teams understand each other in ALL performance sports.

Let me introduce you to Lucy, Propwashelsmere Heart's Desire NW1. She is a tracking fiend and earned her High in Trial K9 Nose work 1 title on her 2nd birthday. Her tracking enthusiasm is obvious in the photo. My goals for Lucy include the AKC CT and the ASCA Master Tracker title.

The title of Master Tracker (MT) will be awarded to dogs who have earned a higher level of achievement in tracking by passing a variety of Tracking Tests a number of times at ASCA sanctioned Tracking Tests. To be eligible for the title of Master Tracker (MT) a dog must successfully pass a minimum of: 3 Tracking Tests (TD) or 3 Tracking Dog Urban Tests (TDU) or any combination of TDs and/TDUs to total 3; plus a minimum pass of 2 Tracking Dog Excellent Tests.

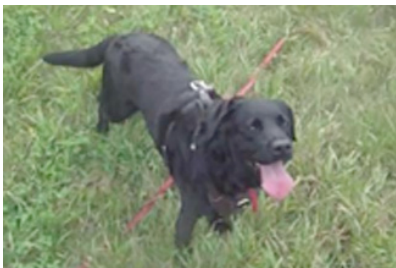
May you enjoy following your dog on many tracks to come.

Lisa Pattison
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Sundays in Readington NJ
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TRIPLE X

By Chuck Shultz



On Sunday, October 28, 2012 (the day before Hurricane Sandy), my black Labrador Retriever, *Cruiser*, earned her third TDX, this one from ASCA. She is now

Gullwing P.T.'s Penelope Cruiser, Am/Can/ASCA TDX.

The test was offered by the *Working Australian Shepherd Club of Upstate New York (WASCUNY)* and was held in

Gansevoort, NY (near Sarasota) on a beautiful horse farm. Overall on the day, two TDs (1 Aussie, 1 Lab) out of 4 passed, 1 TDU (Beagle) out of 2 passed and 1 TDX (us) out of 2 passed.

The track was 910 yards long, with 6 legs. Fortunately, the horses in the corral next to us stayed on the other side of the field, so they weren't a distraction.

Cruiser has had problems with focus while tracking. So to combat that, I tried something different. I stopped tracking her back in June and started her in nosework classes in July. It's tough to conclude whether that strategy made a big difference or

not, but once she got going on this TDX track, she worked with confidence. She was just a little slower than normal, which helped her work, too. We'll see if this approach improves her work in VST.



TDX REPORT

By Anna Burbank
Photos by Jim Bunderla

Well, plotting day went as usual. Seems every time we run one of these events we all kind of agree on how many tracks we can get in at each spot and then the judges come along. Whenever we have tons of land the judges like to tell us that we can get double the tracks in that we planned. When we have what we think is just enough space to run the event, things go differently. So...we got one track in the first field where we thought we would get two. Off went Gina and RoseMary to scavenge around for more fields. Nothing like tracking to lower your blood pressure and calm your nerves. But...on the third field we thought we could get one track and the judges got two. Whew! Problem avoided.

Sunday morning was very foggy so we had to delay the start by an hour, which worked out well for Martha, whose van broke down about a couple of miles from the park shortly before the draw. Good thing tracking is such a calm and soothing activity because otherwise we might have been overly disturbed by the nice hunter and his son who were doing some target practice not too far from the last article on the first track. And the twenty soccer players who were practicing drills near the fourth track as it was laid might have really set our nerves on edge a bit.



The first dog was a very nice working little Pyrshep. The dog did a beautiful track, but was whistled off when the judges walked over the article which the handler had failed to notice. Both judges thought they saw the dog sit and indicate, but apparently it was a quick sit and the handler did not notice.



The second dog, a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, just couldn't seem to convince the handler that it knew where the track was. At least that's how it looked to all of the "handlers" in the gallery. Always easier when you're not on the end of the leash.

The third dog, a Golden, had a really nice start but cut the third corner which really set it up badly for handling the huge pile of brush and fallen logs that constituted one of the obstacles on the track. The dog bypassed the obstacle and was whistled off.

Fourth dog was Joan's Golden Dennis, whose start was near the area where the soccer players

were working out. He worked through it beautifully and bypassed the cross tracks, but then missed an article. The "handlers" in the gallery thought he indicated, but we all knew where the article was so we may have been reading too much into that pause and head dip.

The fifth dog, one of Martha Windisch's Goldens, had a somewhat rocky couple of legs and then presumably decided to critter rather than go into the woods.

The sixth dog, a Cardigan Welsh Corgi, did a beautiful track, but the handler did not pick up the first article. Either she didn't see the dog indicate or it didn't indicate at all. Too hard to see from the gallery.

I find it interesting that three of the six dogs with otherwise very nice tracks were failed on article indication. Sometimes you go home with a title and sometimes you go home with information for your training plan. No passes, but very nice weather for tracking and not too cold on Sunday. I enjoyed watching everyone run and I think everyone had a pretty good day.



K-9 NOSE WORK

By Peg Forte

K-9 Nose Work is a dog sport that is growing very fast. It is a fun search and scenting activity that any dog can do.

Three people in California with K-9 handling experience founded the National Association of Canine Scent Work™ (NACSW). The organization is the only official sanctioning and organizing body for K9 Nose Work and ORT's (Odor Recognition Tests.)



Tex Alerting on Odor

LTC members Karin Damon and Lisa Pattison are certified instructors. The dogs learn to find one of three odors, birch (level 1) anise (level 2) and clove (level 3). Training starts with food treats and progresses to the odors. They are rewarded on each find even in the trials. Testing is done on each level in organized trials. Before a dog can compete on any level they have to pass an ORT (Odor Recognition Test) to prove that they can identify the odor.

The weekend of November 23, 24 and 25, a Nose Work trial was held at the Baptist Camp in Lebanon, NJ. At the Level 3 trial, Karin Damon's Golden Retriever Jigs qualified at Level three, was the highest scoring dog in Level 3 and the first dog on the East Coast to earn the Level 3 title.

On the Level 1 trial, Lisa Pattison's Australian Shepherd, Lucy, was the highest scoring dog in the trial. And my Tex also earned his Level 1 title that day. Tex really enjoys this activity. We worked with Lisa for a short time and then started lessons with Karin because her class schedule worked better for us. They taught us well.

Often the question is asked, "Will doing K9 Nose Work and Tracking at the same time confuse my dog?" Tex has been out tracking with Gina DeAlmedia recently. There was no change in his nose work searches, and he is getting the idea of tracking. Not sure I would want to start both activities at the same time. Tex had about ten months of Nose Work training before we started the tracking.

Want to know more – check it out at <http://www.nacsw.net/>

TIDBITS

HOWARD CUSTER's Chessie **Ginger** (*Custer's Commander Ginger*) finished her RE on November 16 with legs at Wilmington, Penn Treaty and Greater Philadelphia. *Custer's Major Fred (Fred)* finished his RE at Penn Treaty. Bichon Frise *Custer's Admiral Kirk (Kirk)* finished his CD, with legs at Portsmouth Chesapeake OTC in 2010 and Back Mountain and Greater Philadelphia this year.



PEG FORTE's Flat-Coated Retriever **Wyn StormWatch**

WhirlWynd went BOB at the Northeast Maryland KC show on November 23 for a 5 point major and finished her Bronze level Grand Championship. **Tex** earned his Nosework 1 title on November 25.



JANET KELLY's GCh *Wynbrook Apogee Ironclad Oath, MTX, Steeler*, took an Award of Merit at the American Bloodhound Club's 2012 National Specialty, held this year in Camp Hill, PA. In addition, he was showcased in the ABC Top Twenty Invitational, also held during the National week. The following week, he earned a Hound Group 3 at the Gloucester County KC show in Buena, NJ. He should finish 2012 in the Top Ten Bloodhounds in Breed points--currently, he is #7, and is always owner-handled.



AMY NOVAK reports that in September **Layla** became the first Malamute to get AKC's new lure coursing title, CA (coursing ability). In November she finished her MXJ in agility and headed to Orlando for the AKC Agility Invitational.

BARN HUNT: Q & A

By Judy Todd

Barn Hunt? What the heck is Barn Hunt?!?

Barn Hunt is a sporting event based on the hunting and teamwork skills historically used by the “rat-catchers” in Europe who traveled the countryside ridding farms of these vermin.

OK, where did it start and who started it?

Actually, it is in the process of being started. Robin Nuttall, in Missouri, is the driving force behind the sport and she is still working on the rulebook and procedures. She is using feedback from those people who have put on a fun tests; committee members, judges and participants. There have been about a half dozen fun tests held so far through out the country. It is being run like any canine performance event; agility, herding, earthdog, coursing, etc. Entry form, running order, judging sheets, etc.

Do you need a barn?

Well, no. The purpose of Barn Hunt is to demonstrate a dog's

vermin hunting ability in finding and “marking” rats in a barn-like setting, using straw or hay bales to introduce climbing and tunneling obstacles in the dog's path. Barn Hunt may be held indoors or out and need not be held in an actual barn.

What do you need?

1. An area large enough to hold a fenced in 20' X 20" area for the test. Also large enough to provide a spectator/waiting area not less than 20' from the test ring.
2. A sufficient number of hay or straw bales to configure the courses, the actual number will be determined by the level of classes offered. The minimum number needed for the basic, RATI (Rat Instinct Class) would be 12 bales.
3. Rats, of course. These would be the regular lab rats available at pet stores. Most clubs that hold Earthdog events have a colony of rats available and these are the clubs that usually hold fun tests. A sufficient number of rats must be available to switch

them out during the day depending on the level of classes and the number of entries.

4. Rat “Tubes” to hold the rats in the test. These are constructed of PVC pipe cut into 8 or 10 inch lengths and capped off at each end. The caps are ventilated and the pipe has holes drilled in it to provide air movement.

5. And last but by no means least, enough people to put on the event. A Committee comprised of a Chair, Secretary, Stewards, Course Builders and Rat Wranglers. For fun tests these positions can be combined and, as with most canine performance events, all are volunteers.

What dogs are eligible?

Barn Hunt is for any breed or mix of dog who loves to hunt and who can fit through an 18” wide by about 22” tall tunnel constructed of straw or hay bales. It will be speed, agility, hunt drive, scenting ability and teamwork that decides the results. Barn Hunt is all-inclusive for any dog that wants to play the game including large dogs and dogs without a vermin-hunting history.

What are the rules?

The latest set of rules is currently posted on the website.
<www.barnhunt.com>

The test is a timed and height event. The dog is brought into the enclosed test area and released by the handler. The time starts when the dog is released and stops when the handler calls out to the timer or judge that the dog has found the rat in the tube which is hidden



RATN Course

on the course. The dog must vigorously hunt for the rat, both tunneling and climbing through the bales, the handler must move through the test area to keep an eye on the dog, the handler must call out the “mark” to the judge when the handler feels that the dog has found the tube and the rat must be in the tube that was marked.

Depending on the level being tested, there may be three, five or eight tubes on course. Some are “dry,” some will have bedding without rats and some will have bedding and rats in them. In the more advanced levels, the marked tube is removed from the test area, and the test continues until all the tubes with rats in them have been found or the team is timed out.

All dogs that complete the tunnelling and climbing efforts and correctly find the rats in the allotted time will receive qualifying scores. Placements at each height level are determined by time. Each height within each level is placed separately. Height levels are: small - 13” and under; medium - 13.1” to 18”; and large - over 18” in height as measured at the withers.



RATN with WHWT

Wow, this sounds like fun. Are there any events around here?

Yes, while games very much like this have been held around the country in conjunction with fundays for Earthdog breeds, the “Barn Hunt, LLC” events are quite new.

There was a fun test held in the Bordentown/Crosswicks area on Saturday, November 10th of this year. These were non-titling runs as the Barn Hunt LLC will not be offering official testing and titles until the spring of 2013.

How did it go?

Actually, pretty well. The organizer had lined up a judge for this new event and she has previously has had Earthdog Trials and Tests at her farm. She put out a flier and was offering the RATI (Instinct) test in the morning and the RATN (Novice) class for the afternoon.

The entries started coming in. The Barn Hunt rules provide a maximum entry limit of 100 runs per day per judge. When the entries quickly reached 80-85 she asked an additional person to come to judge as the original flyer provided for day of show entries as well as pre-entries. By the time the entries closed, there were 185 entries.

There were 115 dogs that ran the morning's RATI test and 47 would have qualified. Winners would have been:

Small - Sandy, a WHWT at 6.5 seconds.

Medium - three dogs were between 6 and 7 seconds: Rafe, a Rat Terrier; Teazle a Border Terrier and Alex another Border Terrier.

Large - Ayldar an Ibizan Hound at 25.22 seconds and Lefty Lou, an Australian Shepherd at 25.78 seconds.

The time limit for the RATI test is one minute. There are three tubes in this test but they are not hidden on the course but laid on the ground behind the bales of hay or straw.

In the afternoon, there were 70 dogs entered in the RATN test. There were 20 that would have qualified. Winners would have been:

Small - Raisin a Border Terrier at 1:00.

Medium - Terrie a JRT at 16.8 seconds.

Large - few entered and none would have qualified. Time limit for RATN is 2 minutes. There are three tubes hidden on the course in RATN, only one of which has a rat in it. The other ones are either 'dry' or have scented bedding in them.

Will there be more events?

Probably. There was such a good response to the initial offering that a local Earthdog club is considering offering the Barn Hunt as part of their regularly scheduled week of activities at the end of May in 2013. It can also be offered as part of a stand-alone test by any club or group of individuals that apply.

How can I find out more?

Check out the website at <www.barnhunt.com>. There are also a few YouTube videos of dogs running the courses.

Or you could ask me.

FYI: the abovementioned Border Terriers Alex and Raisin are owned by LTC members!!!!

A REPORT ON DOING CRISIS RESPONSE WITH DOGS ON THE JERSEY SHORE AFTER HURRICANE SANDY

By Gail Thompson

Tani and I were deployed from Hope Animal Assisted Crisis Response to the New Jersey shore to assist the Salvation Army in distributing water and hot and cold beverages along with snacks to the home owners, insurance adjusters, contractors, etc., from Saturday, December 1 thru Monday, December 3 amid the devastation from Hurricane Sandy. There was no water, electricity or gas so that service was very welcome. Port-O-Potties were blocks apart. As Hope representatives, we comforted the homeowners.

We were told that there were about 2500 homes on the island and that about 70 percent were condemned. Before anyone other than emergency personnel was allowed into that area, all electric meters had been removed and the streets were repaired so they could once again support vehicles. We traveled to the island between 2 SA canteens so they wouldn't lose us and to facilitate our van getting to the island in the lane dedicated for Emergency and Disaster Relief vehicles only. I was deployed with another gal from Hope who had come up from the DC area, and we used her van as she had two crates in the back, and we had space to have our equipment and a place for extra clothes. She had an Irish Water Spaniel, so between the two of us, we had "rare" breeds and both were Champions except the IWS was a GCh and had gone Best in Show at least once.

People interacted with the dogs even before they went for the refreshments. On Saturday and Sunday, the weather was raw, windy and cold, but on Monday,

our last day there, the weather was in the 60s and sunny.

Devastation was all around us. The entire contents of most houses were heaped in front of the houses for disposal. Even though some of it looked undamaged, it was contaminated with mold. Most houses had to be gutted right down to the outer walls. Sinkholes were everywhere. I saw one house with opposite sides in two different sinkholes. Only the vertical supports of the boardwalk were evident. Houses had moved up to a mile from their foundations. One person we talked with had someone else's home in their front yard, and it took them over 2 weeks to locate the owner who was in Florida. They packed up some mementos and other valuables and sent them to Florida for them. As the SA canteen turned several corners in moving around to other areas, we sometimes would see what appeared at first sight to be a cul-de-sac and I thought we would have to turn around. However, in reality it was a house in the middle of the road ahead.

People in general demonstrated resiliency. I talked with several people who were distraught, but they were not the homeowners but the homeowners' relatives. One person reported talking with a man outside of his house who said that he'd invite them in except that the house was in disarray! I talked with a mother of her daughter who was a homeowner and recovering from brain surgery and now had lost all her belongings as this was her primary residence, not just a summer home. Most people it seemed did not carry flood

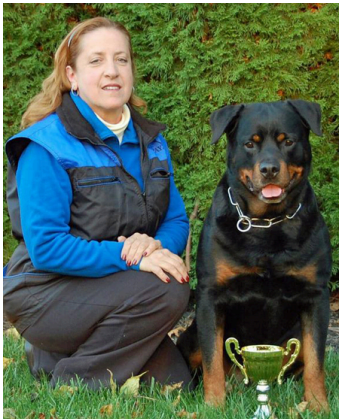
insurance. If the water had reached 5 feet, then the insurance covered only that which was above 5 feet!

The other Hope gal and I would spread out and "herd" people toward the SA canteens. When they saw the canteen in their areas, they came out of the woodwork but not before interacting with the dogs spontaneously. Tani would just lean up against them as they petted and stroked him and the Irish Water Spaniel was more than happy also to do the same.

I have been with Hope since June of 2011, but this was my first call out. I have spent thousands in training and uniforms and it all seemed like a waste, not that I wanted others to experience a disaster so we would be deployed. I was glad that Tani, now 11 years old, could still use his talents in this way. Hope and their outreach is just beginning to be appreciated. You just don't show up without an invitation to a disaster site. They will only ask who you are tell you to leave as you are in the way. I know of several who following training were never on a call-out and therefore left Hope for lack of activity and purpose. However, at a call-out, it is all more than worth it.

The other Hope gal with me was a 5th grade reading teacher who also was fluent in sign language. On Sunday, she encountered a deaf homeowner who was so glad to be able to talk someone about her situation. This was one of the highlights of the weekend for me to see the joy that woman displayed.

TORO'S FABULOUS FH



Toro & I have a tracking brag from October 21st, 2012. We achieved our FH1 Schutzhund tracking title at a local trial here in New Jersey. We traveled to Frenchtown to the “*North Jersey Schutzhund & Police Association*” trial. Being the only non-club member in attendance, we weren’t sure if there would be a track available for us. Luckily, there was enough land available.

Off we went to the track with our tracklayer & the judge. As fate had it, our judge happened to be Al Govdnick, the president of the United States Schutzhund club of America. No pressure there!!!!

Well, we arrived at our track, went through our prep routine, reported to the judge and headed off to our track. No start article, but at least there was a flag. He worked his track like a pro. He downed at all but one all of his articles, he decided to sit (lost some points). He worked one of his 7 turns by looking a different direction (lost more points). He lifted his head to check out a few deer on the field (again lost more points). I’m now beginning to worry that he was coming out of his “Schutzhund working mode”.

There is such regimen needed to perform this type of tracking that I usually command him to track periodically throughout the track. But that is not allowed

during this trial. I’m hoping my boy can keep it together for the 1400 yards!

Well he did... Our judge was so impressed with his work that he told us so before he gave us our score - 85! WE PASSED.

Again, “my boy” Toro has humbled me into realizing how much an animal will do to please his master. He continues to keep me in check, by proving how happy he makes me by just being himself!

For anyone interested in reading the rules regarding this type of tracking, I have attached them for your review.

Happy Tracking!
Gina & Toro

TRACKING TEST 1 RULES (FH 1)

Maximum Points 100

Command: Such/Track or Find

Performing the Track = 80 points

4 Articles (4 x 5) = 20 points

1. Prerequisites

As a prerequisite for participation in this test, the dog must have reached a minimum of 18 months of age and have taken and passed the VDH-BH test.

2. Tracking Performance

The dog must exhibit confident tracking [track sureness] on a track that is laid by a stranger that is a minimum of 1,200 paces long and a minimum of 3 hours old. The track must include six (6) ninety degree corners, adapted to the terrain, and must be crossed at least twice by a second person at well-spaced points. Four (4) **articles** that have been well scented by the tracklayer, who has carried them in his/her pocket for at least 30

minutes prior to laying the track, are to be placed on the track at irregular intervals.

Different types of articles must be used on the track (for example, leather, material, wood). The articles must be a maximum of 10 cm long [about 4”] by 2-3 cm wide [7/8” to 1 1/4”] by 0.5 to 1 cm thick [1/4” to 3/8”] and should not differ significantly in color from the terrain. All articles are to be provided with a number so that the number on the start stake matches the number on the article. The articles are to be found by the dog and either picked up or indicated.

Before beginning the exercise, the handler must report to the judge whether the dog will pick up or indicate [the articles]. Doing both, picking up and indicating, is incorrect. Only such articles will be scored that correspond to the method reported by the handler [to the judge] (picking up or indicating).

The handler has the option of tracking the dog either off lead or on the tracking line. The tracking line may sag, so long as the handler doesn’t drop it.

3. Laying the Track

[Note: When referring to a stranger laying the track, it simply means that someone other than the handler lays the track.] The track is to be laid by someone who is a stranger to the dog. The tracklayer receives a track diagram from either the judge or the tracking coordinator. Either the judge or the tracking coordinator describes to the tracklayer how the track is to be laid, using the distinguishing features of the terrain, such as individual trees, light poles, buildings, etc.

Before laying the track, the tracklayer shows the articles to the judge. The start of the track must be well indicated by a marker stuck in the ground to the left of the starting point and which must remain in place during tracking. After pausing briefly at the starting point of the track, the tracklayer walks in the direction indicated by the judge.

The articles are to be laid on the track at irregular intervals. The first article may not be put down less than 250 paces from the start of the track. The fourth and last article is to be placed at the end of the track. Placing articles at the corners or in the immediate vicinity of a corner is not permitted. Articles should be placed on the track, not next to it. The tracklayer marks the tracking diagram with an "x" for the location where the articles have been placed. It is important that the track is laid over different kinds of terrain [cover] and over a well-traveled established road. The track must be laid in a realistic manner. A predictable pattern is to be avoided.

Thirty minutes after completing laying the track, another person, also a stranger to the dog, is selected to cross the track at two different points as specified by the judge (not on the first or last leg).

4. Working the Track

The dog should remain on the starting point long enough to take the scent. The dog must be trained in such a way that it picks up the track as calmly as possible without any influence from the handler. (The tracking command is permitted.) Under no circumstances should the handler use his/her hand to create in the dog the urge to forge ahead. If the handler believes that the dog has not picked up the track correctly, the

dog may be started over, but only if it is not more than 15 paces from the starting point. A mandatory four (4) point deduction is made.

The track should be worked calmly so that the handler can follow at a regular pace. When the dog locates an article, it must immediately pick it up or indicate it convincingly. The dog may indicate by sitting, lying down or standing. The handler must immediately go to the dog, take the article and raise it in the air. The handler may praise the dog and immediately continue the track. If the dog encounters an object on the track that was not placed there by the tracklayer, it should neither pick it up nor indicate it. If the dog picks up the cross track and follows it about 25 paces off the main track, tracking must be terminated.

5. Scoring

The maximum of 100 points may be awarded only if the dog has presented a convincing performance from beginning to end on the track and all four articles have been picked up or indicated. All corners must have been confidently worked out. The dog must not be influenced by the cross tracks.

Five points will be deducted for each article that is not found. Both picking up and indicating is incorrect. Four points will be deducted for any article incorrectly picked up or indicated.

6. Awarding the FH Title (FH 1)

The FH 1 title may only be awarded if the dog has earned a minimum of 70 points. The following ratings are assigned:

Maximum 100 points -
Excellent (V) - 100 – 96
Very Good (SG) - 95 – 90
Good (G) 89 – 80
Satisfactory 79 – 70
Insufficient - 69 - 0

FROM THE LEFT COAST

We never had a December in New Jersey where we could sit at the breakfast table and watch a hummingbird dip its bill into the flowers of waist-high Pineapple Sage. But the Pineapple Express that brought about a foot of rain to the area over the past few weeks has also kept the temperatures mild. We're fortunate in that our house is located high on our property, so flooding has not been an issue. Our power has stayed on, and the Rogue River didn't breach the roads we normally use. (And you don't have to shovel it!)

After being Oregonians for more than a year, we're really getting settled into the local culture. I have already gone onto the BOD of the Southern Oregon KC and will be test secretary for the TD/TDX/VST test next spring (John will be Chief Trcklayer). And I'm doing the webpage for the Rogue Valley KC and have been nominated for treasurer. Then John volunteered me to take notes for his train club – and do its webpage. We've also joined the local Audubon club but have managed to limit our involvement. And the Master Gardener program starts next month. Is it any wonder the vacuuming often gets neglected?

Diggs has come out in (F)utility. No legs yet, but we're getting closer. He took the first Nosework class, which he loved, but the program isn't well established in the area, so we shelved that project until more resources are available. And he's started in Agility. As was to be expected, he's a Natural – it's Mom who needs all the work...

Happy Holidays to all.

Pat Etchells