



Common Scents

July/August, 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



A while ago I was doing another tricks demo with my dog, Spring, and I got a question from someone that comes up from time to time. It always surprises me a little bit and I try to ask some questions back to make sure that I'm understanding correctly. The question goes something like this - "What do you tell her to make her do that?" They don't want to know how I trained her, how many hours went into it, what was the process. They want to know the word to say. Just the word. Really. Sometimes they ask if they can say the word to her and if Spring looks like she's OK with

them I allow that. I get the distinct impression that these people are going to go home and say "the word" to their dog and maybe if they repeat it enough their dog will do the same trick. So I'm thinking, maybe I should just find the tracking word. There must be a word that means to my dog "follow that smell until you find an object that smells like it". I'm going to give it a shot. I'm betting it's a German word. I'll let you all know how it works.

Right now I'm thinking of another word - "volunteer". We've got some tests coming up in the fall and you're going to be hearing the word "volunteer" a lot. Fortunately, that word works pretty well around Lenape.

Maybe I can also find the word to use for the new "TDU" test that AKC just announced. Now that it's official we'll need to discuss and see if there's interest in putting one of these on (I think there is) and if we have the finances to do it (probably not). The land requirements look interesting. Here's the link to the official description of the test <http://www.akc.org/events/tracking/tdu.cfm>.

Anna

DATES TO REMEMBER

Certification Workshop 2013
----- Sunday, September 29
TD Test 2013
----- Sunday, October 13
TDX Test 2013
----- Sunday, November 10

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MEET THE EARLY MEMBERS

CRIS COURDUFF - JOINED 2004

KAISER & ME

(Born - August 27, 2003)
TD, UD, CGC, TT, RAE, XAp,
XJp, XFAp, VCD2

I started with German Shepherd dogs back in my horse riding days coming home from Sewell, NJ, to Huntingdon Valley, PA, hauling my Appaloosa from a show. It was late, 11 p.m. and I was tired and stopped at a fruit stand that was just closing to get something to keep me awake for the rest of my trip. In talking to the farmer, he had a German Shepherd female that was given to him by a friend who owned a gas station and wanted her for a guard dog but she was too friendly. The farmer had two large ??? dogs in the house that didn't take to this Shepherd so he had her tied in the barn, "did I want to look at her???" DAH! I was 26 years old at the time. This was my first shepherd, having grown up with a family collie. I was on my own, recently divorced, and "Dutches" turned out to be the best companion anyone could ask for. She automatically heeled with the horse on trail rides, (I never heard of dog shows at the time). She became our family dog when I remarried and started having kids, and accepted everything that was asked of her. She lived to be thirteen and was a terrible loss, but the start of more GSDs in my life. We had moved from Feasterville, PA to Quakertown, PA in 1970 when I lost Dutch, but our realtor, Ruth Brader, who was also an AKC Obedience judge, put me in touch with a breeder, Suzie Ziner, who had a litter of GSD puppies, and I came home with Liebchen. I thought that Dutch was amazing, I had no idea I would be lucky twice.

I joined Allentown Dog Training Club in 1985, through Ruth Brader, and started Obedience training. We completed Novice and Open. Liebchen was 6 years old at the time and I wanted a pup from her so I bred her and kept Lad from a beautiful litter of 7 puppies in 1991. After her litter, at 8 years old,

Liebchen and I went on to finish her Utility Degree (her jump height was 32"), which she did in 3 shows, and that was all that was offered in those days. Lad was a nice family dog, but did not have the spirit and willingness for the Obedience ring. We finished his CD and had trained through CDX when he tore his cruciate and ended our jumping. I continued with Allentown Dog Training Club, joining the Training Committee and became their Training Director. As Lad aged, I wanted another German Shepherd and somehow wound up at Karen Wagner's home in NJ in 2003. She had a litter ready for homes by her male, Alkarah's Double Trouble, son of Kismet's Sight for Sore Eyes, "Dallas". Trouble had a lot of energy and yet was sensible. I came home with Alkarah's Kaiser von Duff, and again have been a lucky owner of another amazing German Shepherd.

Kaiser & I have been having a great time. He finished his CD and was working on our CDX when again, Ruth Brader came up with another venue for us ... Tracking!!!! She and her black Standard Poodle Chime, had recently qualified for a TD, and she led us to Lenape Tracking Club in New Jersey. We experienced their TED and joined Lenape in 2004. We then went on to earn our Tracking Dog Title. Kaiser and I were hooked, but do you know how hard it is to get into a TDX???? Try it sometime. We were 19th alternate, 8th alternate, 23rd alternate, and so on. So in the meantime, we tried Rally-RAE, and Obedience-UD, and Agility-XSp, XJp, OFp. We have 2 legs in Open Fast-preferred, and hope to complete it this summer. Kaiser will be 10 in August, and I am no spring chicken, myself, but we love it and have many friends that we show with. In between time, we tried to get into a TDX and again had no luck, so when Lenape held



their VST, I entered, and we got in!!! We started training for it. Allentown Dog Training Club sponsored an Urban Tracking Match a couple of years before, and Kaiser Q'd, two of 4 entries. There were no turns on macadam, but he traversed an entire parking lot at Lehigh County Community College. Well, our VST track started aside and across a driveway from a parking garage. We paralleled on a grassy incline to half-way past another building on the left, turned right to cross the drive, into a courtyard with benches. We came up to a large boulder which we were to pass to the right of, turn left and go down on grass to a concrete passage way between two Student Centers. Well we got to the boulder and he turned left in front of it, followed the scent down the grass which put him up to the building. As he was sniffing around the building, he stepped on the automatic door opener, which opened the door, and started to go inside with me 20 feet behind on the line. As the door started to close behind him, I realized this wasn't right, and brought him back out. At this point, needless to say, we never found the track between the buildings. Whistle!!!!

At our German Shepherd National Specialty in NJ this October, Kaiser will be announced in the "Parade of Greats"! I am so proud of him and only wish I could get back some of his years. Until he starts knocking bars, we will continue doing Agility. After that we are still looking forward to his TDX & VST.

MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have submitted an application for membership. They will become members unless the secretary, Janet Doerer, 5 Woodland Way, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, receives any letters of objection within 4 weeks of the mailing of this newsletter.

Phyllis Broderick
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 English Springer Spaniels: Boeing,
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 Borzoi: Kiva
 Whippet: Grayson
 Sponsors: Jim Bunderla & Nancy
 Grove
 Attended: TED & Beginner Tracking
 Class



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 Standard Poodle: Lily
 Sponsors: Jim Bunderla & Nancy
 Grove
 Attended: TED & Beginner
 Tracking Class



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 Vizsla: Closie
 Sponsors: Jim Bunderla & Nancy
 Grove
 Attended: Beginner Tracking Class

TIDBITS



The ETCHELLES' Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever **Diggs** earned his first Novice agility legs in Standard and Jumpers at the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America's trial.

PEG FORTE's Flat-Coated Retriever **Wyn** is a mother! GCH Bronze StormWatch WhirlWynd presented Peg with pups on July 14th. There are 7 boys and 2 girls. Sire of the litter is SH CH Brightmoor Celtic Storm, a dog who lives in the Netherlands. Wyn was surgically implanted with

sperm from Colin on May 16th. The pups were all whelped in three hours in the afternoon. One of the male pups will be donated to The Seeing Eye in Morristown, NJ in honor of Lightfoot's Deacon who was raised by Peg to be a guide dog.



CH Landaracurl Forever My Girl CA CAA CAX aka **Tara**, owned by MARILYN and MICHAEL TRAUIG earned her CAX on June 22, 2013 under Judge Gary Roush at the K-9 Obedience Lure Coursing event. Tara is the first Curly Coated Retriever to earn the CAA and CAX titles. Tara went to her CAX title with 25 straight passes.

LURE COURSING

BY SCOTT MILLER



The hunting or coursing of swift game with swift hounds has been around for thousands of years. The oldest known treatise on coursing with sighthounds is the *Cynegeticus*, written by the Greek, Arrian in 180 BC. The first modern coursing club was introduced in Great Britain in 1776.

Unfortunately for houndsmen, hare season wasn't year-round, and the populations of wild hares can fluctuate a lot, so an alternative was needed. In 1972 lure coursing was developed by the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) to simulate open-field coursing (coursing of live game, usually jackrabbits or hares) with artificial lures. This new sport was portable; able to be packed up, moved, and set up at will, independent of the availability of live game. And the hounds could be kept in good condition between live hunts.

Today, chasing artificial lures is the most popular form of sighthound performance sport in North America. Currently, there are three organizations offering lure coursing: ASFA, AKC and UKC. In each venue, hounds chase a lure around a pattern of pulleys set out in a fairly open field, either using a dragline or a closed, continuous

loop system (in which the lures start and stop at the same place and do not need to be restrung after each course). The lures are usually white plastic kitchen trash bags or occasionally strips of fur. I'll focus on AKC lure coursing for the purposes of this article.

Each hound is entered into the stake for which she is eligible: Open, for hounds who have not yet earned the Field Champion title; Special, for those hounds who have satisfied the requirements for the Field Champion title; and Veteran, for those hounds over a certain age, determined by their breed. The hounds are run three-at-a-time in preliminary and final courses. They are scored on several categories including speed, agility, endurance, follow and overall ability, based on the running style for their particular breed. The scores for each course (prelim and final) are combined and placements are determined from the total. The highest-scoring hound wins the stake and earns championship points based on the placement and the number of hounds defeated. The winners of each stake then move on to the Best of Breed competition. The hounds that win Best of Breed then have the option to move on to Best in Field,

competing against the BOB winners from the other breeds.

Field Champion points are awarded to hounds competing in the Open and Veteran stakes, and with a combination of placements and points (as in Conformation, 2 majors of 3+ points and 15 total points), the hound could eventually earn that title. Once a Field Champion, the hound competes in the Special stake and can earn points and placements toward the next-level title, Lure Courser Excellent (LCX).

Lure coursing events are designated as either All-Breed (despite its name, these trials are open only to eligible sighthound breeds) or Specialty for one breed (usually in conjunction with a breed's National).

Until recently, lure coursing was only available to those breeds designated as sighthounds by their parent clubs. Now, AKC has introduced a coursing test for non-sighthound breeds called the Coursing Ability Test (CAT). Dogs run individually and, just like tracking tests, this is a pass/fail event: as long as the dog completes the course with enthusiasm, without interruption and within the maximum allotted time for the length of the course, he has passed and will earn one leg towards his CA title. After three legs under at least two different judges, the dog is awarded the suffix title CA. For each additional 25 legs, the dog is awarded a title of CAX (CAX2 for 50, CAX3 for 75, and so on).

Regardless of ribbons, titles, points or placements, dogs who like to run don't care where they do it. As with all dog sports, your dog doesn't know what placement she has earned and can't tell the color of the ribbon, so the most important thing is to HAVE FUN!



FROM THE LEFT COAST

BY PAT ETHELLS

Summertime in Southern Oregon is dry. Dry, as in typically no rain all summer. Temperatures are usually in the 90s and humidity in the 20s. Watering is at your discretion - and the color of your lawns and gardens is a function of how much you irrigate. The native flora has adapted to this climate and either stays green or goes dormant, but seems to survive.

However, with all this vegetation, wildfires are a constant worry, and fighting them is a top priority, no matter what the cost. We had a passing interest in three of the early season fires.

The Beacon Hill fire was apparently caused by a vehicle on I-5 dragging a chain or a muffler, which sent periodic sparks into the grass at the side of the freeway. The burned hillsides along the Interstate included areas less than 100 yards from where our rental house had been. Apparently the house had been hosed down, but the fire never got dangerously close to the homes on that road and was pretty much out by the next morning. They never did identify the vehicle that caused the fire.

On July 4 we noticed a plume of smoke coming over the mountain as we were leaving our driveway. We continued with our plans and found ourselves on the other side of the fire, watching choppers carry buckets full of water from the Rogue River up and over the mountain. At home that evening, we could see smoke rising over the mountain, with an occasional flare up. This 154-acre Stratton Creek fire burned for several days - and it was determined that the cause had been a truck leaking transmission fluid. It had been on a legal roadway, so the owner wasn't responsible for the damages.

The grass fire in Merlin was only a couple miles from our house, but we were upwind and never in any danger. Choppers with water buckets and air tankers dropping loads of retardant made short work of the fire and only outbuildings



Sunset the first evening after the lightning strikes. The sun is red, and the small white dot above the treeline in the middle is lights on a tanker carrying fire retardant.

were damaged. The cause - a pickup truck carrying paper in its bed had a cigarette land on the paper - and the driver pulled off into the dry grass.

So, three early season fires caused by vehicles. Then Mother Nature decided She wanted Her turn. In the wee hours of Thursday, July 25th, although there was absolutely nothing in the forecast about storms, for about an hour it was as bright as day over the mountains as the lightening flashed continuously. Without rain, it was a no-brainer that there were going to be wildfires. Initially there were dozens and dozens of small fires. Firefighters were able to put out some, but the majority of them merged into five large fires - now referred to as Complexes - in Southern Oregon.

The closest of the fires is probably more than 5 miles away from our house - as the crow flies. We couldn't see any smoke pillars or flames from our house - but the skies were filled with the choppers and air tankers. The local high school is a Fire Camp, where firefighters camp out in their off-duty hours. And the media is putting out calls for donations of socks and toiletries.

As the fires continue to burn, the air quality has deteriorated quickly and the AQI shifts between "very unhealthy" and "hazardous". Frequently in the winter, fog is held in the valleys by a temperature inversion; a similar climatological scenario is trapping the smoke. You can scarcely see across the road! Outdoor activities have been cancelled, and people are encouraged to wear masks or stay indoors. Tankers and helicopters are grounded. And the fire lookouts are unmanned because the smoke layer obliterates everything.

The probable source of most of this smoke is the 25,000 acre Douglas Complex fire, about 15 air miles north of us. Right now it's the highest priority in the nation, and they're bringing in resources from the East Coast as well as using the National Guard!

West of us is the Big Windy Complex. Since it is in rugged, uninhabited BLM forests, it is very low priority and may be allowed to burn until the winter rains extinguish the flames. To those in waterlogged New Jersey, it must be ironic to read that there are people who actually want rain!