

LENAPE TRACKING CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY, INC



MAR/APR 2017 ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

2017 UPCOMING EVENTS

VST - 5/21 at Brookdale
Community College , Freehold,
NJ

TD - 10/8 at Hoffman Park,
Hampton, NJ

TDX - 11/12 at Hoffman Park or
Sondek Park (& surrounding
location locations)

Hello fellow trackers,

This year is moving along & the club events are coming up quickly. We are just rapping up our "Tracking Experience Day" from April. There are some pictures included in this newsletter along with a recap of the wonderful weekend we had. Looking forward to holding our VST trial at Brookdale Community College in Freehold, NJ on May 21st. Hope to see some of you there. If you want to help out that day please contact Rosemary or Anna.

The next event we will be working on is our "Tracklayer certification". This is where we teach you how to lay a track, use sight markers, draw a map & most importantly - go back out in the field and find your track. This is so important to the Lenape club because we only use certified tracklayers in all of our trials. This will be held sometime this summer. Final date will be posted on the Lenape website.

Looking forward to the fall.... We will be running 2 trials (TD and TDX).

More info to follow 😊

That's all for now. Happy Tracking!!!!



TED participant

Gina DeAlmeida
President
Lenape Tracking Club of NJ

BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

General Membership Meeting, Friday, February 24, 2017. Time To Eat Diner, Bridgewater, NJ

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:28 PM by President Gina DeAlmeida.

Attendance: Nancy Grove, Jim Bunderla, Janet Doerer, Lynn Samsky, Linda Dellmyer, Anna Burbank, Gina DeAlmeida, Martha Windisch, Janet Kelly.

President's Report: No official report given.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December Board Meeting were pre-distributed. Motion to approve was made by Linda and seconded by Nancy. Motion carried; minutes approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Anna reported that, as of 1/31/2017, our assets were \$11,850.74. Since becoming an AKC Tracking Dog judge, Gina has asked for a donation whenever she does a certification and sends the check to Anna for the Treasury. Thank you, Gina! Janet motioned to approve the report; seconded by Gina. Motion carried; report approved.

Nominating Committee Report: Peg Forte Chaired this year's Nominating Committee. Gina reported in Peg's absence. Upcoming Slate (still waiting for confirmation of Director)—President Gina DeAlmeida, Vice-President Peg Forte, Secretary Janet Kelly, Treasurer Anna Burbank, Directors Ben Hoyle, Cindy Grodkiewicz, (vacant—awaiting confirmation). Upon confirmation of Director, Janet will send the new Slate to the AKC in March.

Membership Report: No pending new members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Point Person for each Trial: Gina will be point person for the TDX (November 19, 2017, Hoffman Park, offering 5 tracks). Need point persons for TD (October 8, Hoffman Park, 8 tracks) and proposed VST trial (May 22 at Brookdale Community College in Freehold—have one judge who is still provisional for VST, need one additional judge—Anna actively seeking.)

Newsletter: Tammy Snyder (member residing in NY) has volunteered to be our new NL editor. Please submit articles, brags, etc.! Thank you, Tammy!

TED: Dates are April 22-23, 2017 at Camp Tecumseh. Gina distributed flyers for members to place at their training clubs, veterinarian offices, etc. Anna will look into placing the information on Infodog—is there a fee? There will be a raffle—Gina will assign this task to someone. Please donate items. "Demo dog" will be handled by Rose Mary or Gina.

Membership Application: This needs to be updated to Anna's address—Anna will check on this.

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NEW BUSINESS:

VST: A Second VST judge is needed; first confirmed judge is provisional at this time. Anna was able to contact Michelle Gillette this evening and she agreed to judge.

(ADDENDUM 3/2/2017—

Michelle is also provisional—Anna is actively seeking an approved VST judge for our event.)

Constitution & By-Law Revision: Janet agreed to handle this task—proposed revisions were distributed and discussed this evening. Janet will send final revisions to AKC for review/suggestions prior to having a membership vote.

Worker's Credits: Files will be amended to add the clause, "including judges" and "non-Club members/tracklayers to whom the Club has reached out to for help when needed". The number of credits required for entry into an event will be TWO (2), and credits will continue to expire after TWO (2) years. ONE (1) credit will be awarded for participation in an event. (These changes were previously discussed/approved at the December BOD meeting.) Anna will check all Club files to ensure changes are/were made to documents to reflect these changes.

Next General Membership Meeting: Date TBA. Will include voting on proposed Slate of Officers and presentation of awards to Club members.

Adjourn: Nancy motioned to adjourn; Gina seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet

Janet Kelley
Secretary, LTCCNJ

TED participant



Member's Brags: Lynn Samsky, Diamond, and Mikayla

Diamond my black long coat Shepherd completed his Rally Novice A title earlier this year, got his first leg of his Rally Advanced title on April 2, 2017 as well as his first CD leg on the same day. My female bi-color Shepherd, Mikayla, will be filming again this April for a t.v. show.

Cindy Grodkiewicz

Has a new tracking partner, her name is Charleigh and here she is. We look for great things from this team in the future!



Tammy Snyder and Splash

Splash my Golden Retriever, got her 2nd Open Standard Agility leg with a first placement at the SNKC agility trial in April.

New Tracking Titles: Cindy Everett and Luna

Congrats to Cindy and Golden Retriever, Luna on earning their TD in March. Cindy and Luna were certified by our very own Gina DeAlmeida and passed on their first try.

Pat Etchells and Raggs



Tracking is a Team Sport
(reported by the Pat Etchells portion of the team)

When Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Raggs was just a little puppy, he and I had a discussion about tracking. I told him I would take him to fields where hotdogs grew, and in exchange he would put his nose down and track. Here in Oregon, tracking is primarily a winter activity because of foxtails and rattlesnakes, so this project was taking several years. But when we started meeting other trackers regularly, I realized that he really did know how to track and arranged to meet a judge while we were down in California for a show in February.

After he got certified, I thought it would be easy to get into a Northwest test because the pool of trackers had dried up when everyone was passing because of the wet conditions all winter. (I was even test secretary for a TD/TDX/VST in late March that had NO TD entries at all.) But when I started mailing in my entries in the Bay Area the two weekends following our combined test, dogs had come out of the woodwork, and we were ridiculously far down on the alternate lists. Our last shot for 2017 was in Eugene, Oregon, which held a 12-dog test on Easter, and we got in. Doing my part again, I paid the entry fee, and we left home at 4:00 a.m., navigated a number of mountain passes in the fog in the pitch black and got to the site in time for the 7:00 draw. Then I told Raggs it was his turn to contribute to the effort.

The track started out in ankle high lush cover and then changed to stripes of scalped grass and short grass, but Raggs and I were pretty much working as a team until the last quarter of the track. We were confidently going down the field, and he told me the track went through mud toward a treed mound. I believed him for a while, then realized that according to the tracking regulations, the track couldn't go so close to an obstacle and that he had passed the job back to me.

After the basic tracking tenet of "trust your dog", the second most important thing to remember is that when you're in trouble, back up! (And backing up in boot-sucking mud for me and belly-deep mud for him was quite a challenge!) After getting back onto firmer ground, I started encouraging him to circle – and he started off at an angle. Not really trusting him after he had dragged me into the mud, I held him back and backed some more. He came up to me and started offering behaviors – sitting, standing, chewing the lead, whining, lifting his leg. I said "track" and he stared at me.

Now what? I knew I absolutely couldn't point to the ground – but I had to get this dog going. I untangled his lead, let him sniff the start article, and backed a little. He moved a little then glared at me. So we did the article sniff again, I backed again and did a little in-place footwork – and finally he gave me a disgusted look and took off – back down where I thought he was lying before.

At that point, I had to go with him. There was no whistle, so we kept going. After a short way, I saw something lighter to the left of where he was. It was my turn to help out a little, so I encouraged him to circle and find another short leg - and he homed in on the glove. Happy tweets of the judges' whistle after about 20 agonizing minutes! (Here on the Left Coast, short tweets mean success. A long whistle is ... the whistle.)

(At the wrap up, I learned that the treed mound was home to coyotes and all sorts of other fascinating critters and that there were, indeed, two 50-yard legs at the very end.)

So he's now Skylark Raggin' a Tune With Deerhill, CD, TD, RN, DJ, CGC

Member profile: This section of the newsletter will be reserved for a member profile each issue. It is my hope, since many of Lenape's members live away from the club area that we can get to know each other in this format. This can be a place for all members to learn about new venues to try with their dogs. If you want to submit something on another club member or yourself and your own dogs, just send it to me at tsrotts1@twcny.rr.com

MEMBER PROFILE: JANET KELLY, MEMBERSINCE 2002

Hi, all—

I'm Janet Kelly, owned by bloodhounds for the past two decades, and Lenape member since attending TED in 2002. Why bloodhounds? Having had smooth Dachshunds in the past, I understood their high level of behavioral variability and realized I wanted a larger dog and a breed that was less vascillating in their actions and reactions. With a couple of years' worth of research and attending shows and meeting owners, I realized a bloodhound would meet my desires. I really intended to have one as a pet and companion, however--

In 1996, I welcomed Tattoo into my home—a spunky red bloodhound full of personality and charm. His breeder had conformation, obedience, and tracking titles on his hounds. I was encouraged to show, and we attended conformation and obedience classes. Tattoo was a bit small but did earn his CH and had several very nice wins as a Special. The American Bloodhound Club (ABC) started its own event, Mantrailing, in the 1980's, and I thought it would be an enjoyable activity for us to try. His breeder thought it would be more worthwhile to start in Tracking, but I wanted to go for the trailing titles. Tattoo passed his Instinct Certification Test (since re-named) in 1998 and we met several new SAR friends. We would meet monthly, mostly in central PA, and train regardless of temperature and weather conditions. Lots of time was spent on the PA Turnpike! It was a wonderful learning experience, training with those who worked their hounds in the community. Eventually Tattoo earned all three levels of Mantrailing titles (MT-Mantrailer, MTI-Mantrailer Intermediate, and MTX-Mantrailer Excellent).

In 2000, Tattoo's son, Australian-born Blue, came to NJ. Blue started trailing at a young age and really enjoyed it! A quiet, gentle soul, he was more comfortable in harness than in a show collar. Blue earned all three Mantrailing titles in an 11-month time span, back in the day when there were only 3-4 trails nationwide annually! He was also a conformation champion, but trailing was truly his forte.

Prior to 2013, the ABC criteria for induction into its Working Dog Hall of Fame was four titles, AKC or ABC titles only. So both Tattoo and Blue are honored as Working Dogs of Merit. Since that time, criteria for all ABC Hall of Fames (Show Dog of Merit, Sire of Merit, Breeder of Merit, Working Dog of Merit, Performance Dog of Merit, Breeder of Merit) was reevaluated and changed. With the addition of titles and optional titles happening with increasing frequency, as well as the use of frozen semen from deceased sires, the ABC Committee proposed changes to more accurately reflect EXCELLENCE in each category. All Sires and Dams of Merits and Breeders of Merit must now have several Parent Club Mantrailing titles earned by their hounds and/or progeny, in addition to other requirements specific to each Hall of Fame; optional titling is not considered for merit in any category; and all Working Dog of Merit titles MUST be earned in harness in Mantrailing and Tracking—four titles must be earned, so the hound must be adept in both disciplines. The Performance Dog must earn four titles in Obedience, Rally, or Agility—at least two disciplines at second-level titling (i.e., CDX or RA, or one discipline at a third-tier title (UD, AXJ, etc.)

When starting a pup to trail, we advocate doing “runaways” where the dog watches the runner move away, then give the pup a command word that is only used at the start of a trail and both the handler and the trail-layer encourage the dog vocally to go to the trail-layer. This is obviously usually mastered quickly; the next step is to use a scent article from the trail-layer and have the pup watch the trail-layer move away and hide behind something—pup is given the command word and scented with the article, short trails, gradually increasing the length, age, and difficulty of the trail and terrain. And after that, since human scent discrimination is the hallmark of the bloodhound, we work on cross-runners, multiple trail-layers, and having more than one (sometimes many!) people at the end of a trail so the hound has to identify the correct person at the end. There is always a celebration at the conclusion of a successful trail—lots of praise and something special (toy, treat, etc.) for a job well done. If a hound incorrectly identifies someone, they are encouraged to “get to work” and identify the correct person.

At Trailing Trials, teams do not have to be run step-for-step as in Tracking; a hound can “cut off” any part of a trail. The object is to find and identify the correct person, so wind/temperature/environment plays a part in where the scent is at any given time. Of course, in a real-life situation, the objective is to find a missing person in the shortest amount of time, so we don’t penalize a hound for not following a trail exactly. There is no specified length of lead or distance between hound and handler—you use the length needed to be able to be behind your dog and “read” body language, and for safety of conditions, as we are often in urban areas or near traffic. You must be behind the hound, must be working, and cannot guide

or excessively restrain your dog. The hound must physically identify the correct person and the handler must verbally identify the correct person—and they must agree! No “guessing” your way to a title is permitted.

A certification (now called Entry Event Certification Test) must be passed before entering a trial—it is one hour in age and ¼ mile in length, with one trail-layer at the end. Titles must be earned consecutively and a level cannot be “skipped over”. Length of trails at Mantrailing trials is always ½ to ¾ mile. Age of trails varies for each level—4-6 hours for an MT, 8-18 hours for MTI, 24-36 hours for MTX. There are no restrictions on terrain, as areas used vary in different regions of the country; however, at any trial, all trails at the same level are to be consistent in conditions. MT has one trail-layer, MTI has one trail-layer and one cross-runner who are 15’ apart at the end of the trail; MTX has parallel runners who split up at one point and come back together to complete the trail, and are 15” apart at the end.

The American Bloodhound Club was the first Parent Club to have its titles recognized by the AKC.

When Mantrailing was formed, trials were at first only held at National Specialties; then one or two Regions began holding trials of their own. We now have 7-8 trials nationwide in a given year. There are currently 25-30 active ABC Mantrailing Trial judges. I became a judge in December 2003 and have judged in all six ABC Regions and at many National Specialties. I have been an Event Chair or Secretary many times, and in many Regions. I truly love watching Bloodhound “do what they were bred to do”!

I was only the third handler in the history of ABC Mantrailing trials to earn an MTX on multiple dogs—and I’m pretty proud of that.

Now, to my current bloodhound--Steeler will soon become a Veteran. He has a spectacular nose, which can be a bit of an annoyance when he is not on the trail. He checks every doorknob, every bag brought into the house, every area of every person he sees, and it can be very trying at times! But that nose and his abilities allowed him to earn all three Mantrailing titles by 16 months of age—the youngest male bloodhound ever to do so! He was an AKC CH at 14 months and a GCH at 22 months, always owner-handled. He has multiple Group placements and a National Specialty Award of Merit, all before age three, when his conformation career ended due to spine injury. We tried Rally but Steeler did not enjoy it. We attended Lenape’s Tracking classes in 2013 and Steeler figured out pretty quickly that Tracking was NOT Mantrailing. Both of us had surgery soon after that, so our training was delayed. Once

recuperated, we were able to train with several Lenape members and earned Certification in June 2015, and a TD in October 2015—that earned Steeler induction in the ABC Hall of Fame as a Working Dog of Merit! We plan to continue tracking and hope to do well.

Although a member for many years, time constraints and my ABC activities prohibited much early interaction with Lenape. In recent years, I have become more active--becoming a certified track-layer, acting as hospitality chair and chief track-layer at events, and serving on Lenape's Board. I enjoy being a part of this Club and appreciate the knowledge and kindness of its members.



Thank You Janet for your story and for your service to the club. Happy Tracking and Trailing!

Tracking vs Trailing:

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Tracking vs. Trailing *by Jan Rothwell*

There is always confusion and misunderstanding regarding the differences between tracking and trailing. Although there similarities. They both require a dog, a harness and a handler. They both have three levels of competition, but the sports differ from there.

The definition of tracking as stated in the AKC tracking regulations is as follows: *The purpose of the tracking test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind.*

The definition of trailing as stated in the ABC trailing standard is as follows: *The purpose of a trailing trial is to certify the Bloodhound's abilities for trailing and correctly identifying a specific person in a field setting.* I would probably amend the ABC trailing standard to include the ability of a dog to "scent discriminate" as this is truly what our Bloodhounds excel at.

I offer the following as my definitions of the two sports. It is important to remember we are talking about the **sport** of tracking and trailing. I label myself as the ultimate hobbyist when it comes to trailing!

Tracking is a test of the dog's ability to follow human scent and identify articles along the way. A track (depending on the test level) can be from 1 hour old for a TD to 3-5 hours old for a TDX or VST. Tracks vary in length from 400 yards to 1,000 yards. Tracking tests the precision of the working dog. Cross runners are used on the TDX test but are not present at the end of the track. The measure and success of the test is to find the articles (gloves, wallets, socks, etc.).

Trailing is a test of a dog's ability to distinguish and follow one person's scent and identify that person. The trailing tests are 4-6 hours old for a MT, 8-18 hours old for a MTI and 24-36 hours old for a MTX. The length varies from _ to _ of a mile long. Contamination is key and the MTX trail should be laid in a congested area such as in a public park or corporate center. Cross runners are used on the MTI and MTX trails and the runners are located at the end of the trail. The dog must identify the correct runner. A trailing dog can air scent, ground scent or use any other means to get from point "A" to point "B" the quickest and most efficient way possible.

The big question? Can a Bloodhound do both? Yes, but it ain't easy! In my experience, Bloodhounds CAN track and do so quite well when trained in that discipline. I think those of us who try both tracking and trailing will tell you to have the tracking aspects firmly established before you try trailing. The unspoken word is that a tracking Bloodhound can trail but the trailing Bloodhound cannot always track, although I believe cannot track should read "WILL NOT" track!

Lenape Events: April TED: Tracking Experience Day!

Dear Lenape Members,

On 4/22, the club held our Tracking Experience Day seminar with 12 participants. It was a fun weekend with everyone learning about tracking. We had a rainy Saturday but that didn't stop us. Sunday was a beautiful day.

After the morning seminar, Gina's young Rottweiler, Felon ran a demo track. The participants then broke up into groups & everyone moved through the 4 training stations learning map making, measured pace, lead handling & starting your dog. We broke for lunch & assisted with fitting harnesses. After lunch, all the participants had the opportunity to start their dogs with one on one help from Lenape club members. We did have 1 deaf participant with an interpreter who told us she learned so much & had a wonderful time.

Sunday follow up was all about learning how to start turns, lead handling & article indication.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all of our wonderful club members that volunteered their time & effort to make this event a success. Nancy, Jim, George, Rosemary, Ben, Anna, Gina, Cris, Donna, Lynn, Sandy, Bill, Linda & Peg. The TED would never have been possible without all of your help.

Some Photos of the big Event:



Felon and Gina Demo



New Members: Please welcome the following new members to Lenape.

Welcome!

Gina Boderck,
136 Drakestown Rd. Hackettstown, NJ 07840
Phone: (908) 850-9794 E-mail: ginaboderck@yahoo.com

Barbara DelRowe
15 Sherman Ave. White Plains, NY 10605-3521
Phone: (914) 261-4858, E-mail: delroweb@gmail.com

Paula Nicolai
6 Elk Ridge Road, Califon, NJ 07830
Phone: (908) 399-3220, E-mail: pnicolai4@hotmail.com

From Anna Burbank: Thank you to the following people who contributed to the trophy fund?
We have \$185 in the fund this year.

Mary Christie, Dr. Kristine Conway, Carol C. Courduff (Cris), Janet Doerer, Sandra Hambrecht,
Benjamin Hoyle, Janet Kelly, George Laubach, Tammy Snyder, and Martha Windisch.



Gina and Toro TDX track CRC Rottweiler Specialty.

Contact Us

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

<http://www.lenapetrackingclub.org/>
