



# COMMON SCENTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
LENAPE TRACKING CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY, INC

4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2025

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### Upcoming Events

- VST Apr 12, 2026  
@ Brookdale CC  
5 tracks + Alt
- TD Oct 4, 2026  
@ Finn Park  
8 tracks + Alt
- TDX Nov 5, 2026  
@ Finn Park  
5 tracks + Alt

\*\*\*\*Don't forget Lenape  
Tracking Club offers Worker  
Draw at every test\*\*\*\*

Submit your worker credits  
with Entry.

Happy Holidays to everyone!!!

Now that fall is over & the holidays are upon us, I want to wish Happy Holidays and Good Cheer to all the Lenape Tracking Club members and their families.

The LTC had a busy 2025. We held a VST trial, A Tracklayer certification, a TD trial and a TDX trial. We also welcomed a few new members to the club. 🙌🙌

I want to personally thank all the club members that volunteered at each of these events. You are the backbone of the club. We can't hold these tests without your support. 📣📣. Next year's tests are all scheduled and ready to go. The dates will be listed in the newsletter. **Please mark your calendars!**

Also under consideration, if any club members are interested in being a part of running a **TDU test** next year, please contact me and I will get the ball rolling.

I hope to see everyone on the fields in the spring!!  
Let's all have a wonderful holiday season.  
Stay happy & healthy!

Gina DeAlmeida

## Lenape Board

President- Gina DeAlmeida  
Vice-President - Anna Burbank  
Treasurer - Ben Hoyle  
Secretary - Janet Kelly

### Board of Directors

Peg Forte  
Donna Hess  
Rosemary Laubach

Monique Buzzarté  
Anne Rosenberg

### Additional Assignments

Membership - Janet Doerer  
Newsletter – Ben Hoyle  
Trial Secretary - Anna Burbank  
Trial prep/Equipment/Ribbons/etc. - Gina DeAlmeida

The Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey was founded in June 1975, for the purpose of assisting people in the training of their dogs in tracking, to encourage sportsmanlike competition in tracking tests, and to sponsor educational programs of interest to tracking enthusiasts.

Tracking demonstrates a dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report as of 09/30/2025

This report covers the period from April 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. As of the end of December, the balance in the checking accounts was \$14,539.90. This balance includes the \$500 promotion gift from Key Bank. The TD test on October 5<sup>th</sup> lost \$488.50 and the TDX test lost \$231.41.

Benjamin T. Hoyle  
Treasurer

## Lenape News

**Tracking Dog Excellent Test** The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Tracking Dog Excellent Test was held at Finn Park in Pittstown New Jersey on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The test filled for our 5 tracks plus 1 alternate track and there were 4 alternates. One dog withdrew as it had previously earned its TDX. The day turned out to be chilly but sunny at the start and gradually warming slightly during the morning. The spectacle of seeing 3 hot air balloons soaring overhead in the distance along with the bright yellows, reds and golds of the landscape added to the good feeling of being outdoors that day. The 6 dogs trying for their TDX titles were: Klee Kai, German Shepherd, Shetland Sheepdog, Miniature Dachshund, West Highland White Terrier, and a Collie. Unfortunately, there were no passes on this day. Each of the dogs made good efforts and worked hard. Their day will come soon.

Here are some pictures from the test. Enjoy!



**Web Site Update** In the last issue of Common Scents, it was announced that after many years Pat Etchells was stepping down as our web master. Answering the call for assistance filling this important volunteer position, Monique Buzzarté has offered to take on these duties. Monique provides similar services to other dog clubs where she is a member and is happy to take on this role. Thank you Monique!!!

With the change in web master, we also realized our web site desperately needed to be updated. It was originally designed over 20 years ago and the software platform on which it was built was outdated. The LTC board of directors met on November 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss this matter and agreed to engage the services of Princeton Internet Group to undertake this project. A preliminary cost estimate for this work is \$4,000. We are asking members to make a voluntary donation to help offset this cost with their membership renewal in January. The new web site will provide us with the ability to more efficiently post updates, link to our Facebook page, and will have a more contemporary look and feel. It is planned that the new design will also allow us to expand our use of the web site to our membership. We hope you will support this work and make a donation.

Just a reminder of the **Common Scents deadlines** and publication dates through 2026. Send all brags, member profiles, and information to be published in the newsletter to: Ben Hoyle at [hoylebt@gmail.com](mailto:hoylebt@gmail.com).

<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>	<b>Published</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2026	March 15th	April 2026 (after VST)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2026	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	July 2026
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2026	September 15th	October 2026 (after TD)
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2026	December 15th	January 2027

The above dates are approximate. The newsletter will be quarterly unless there is need to produce more frequently. It will cover the club's main events: the Tracklayer Certification, VST, TD and TDX. The above are dates that brags/memorials and any other information for the newsletter should be received by the editor.

## **New Members:**

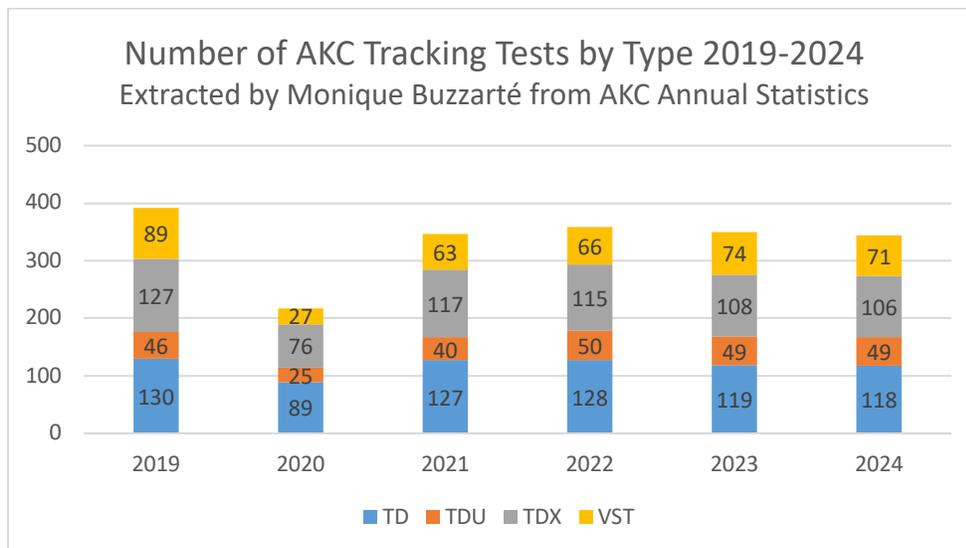
Welcome goes out to our newest member, **Matt Fetrow**. Matt has been a familiar face at many of our tracking tests as a willing and skilled tracklayer. Matt has Rhodesian Ridgebacks and we look forward to seeing Matt at the end of a tracking lead sometime in the near future. He operates Sexy Beast Dog Collars where he makes bespoke dog collars, leads, and other leather items. Matt has also donated the wood draw items etched with our logo used in our tests. Thank you, Matt, for your time and talents!

Do you know someone who is interested in tracking or may want to become more involved in tracking? We would like to hear from them. They can complete a membership application found at **Lenapetrackingclub.org** and send to the Membership Director, Janet Doerer.

**Membership Director:** Janet Doerer  
 5 Woodland Way  
 White House Station, NJ 08889-3661  
 E-Mail: [jdoerer@gmail.com](mailto:jdoerer@gmail.com)  
 Phone: (908) 303-5544

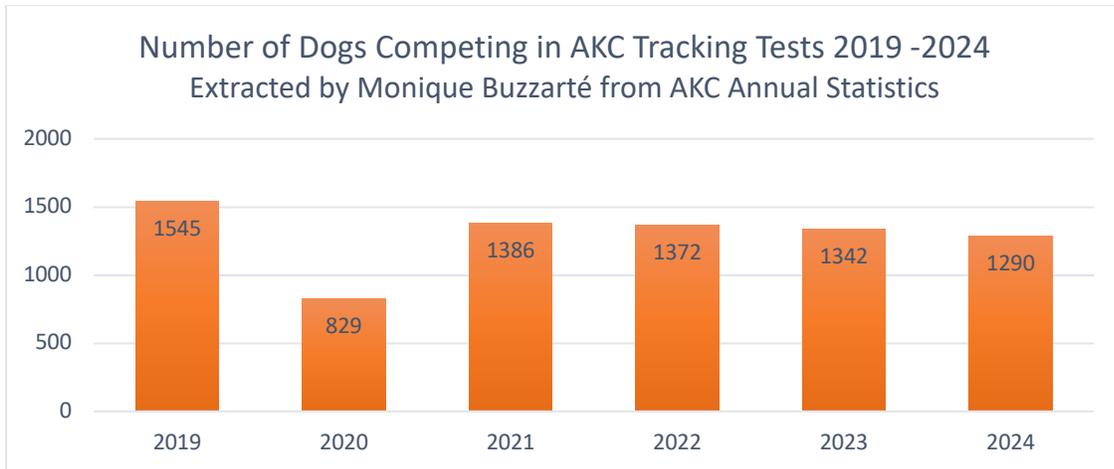
## AKC Tracking Statistics

With the increase in the number of performance events offered by the AKC, did you ever wonder how tracking numbers have held up over time? Thanks to our member, Monique Buzzarté, we can now see the statistics through 2024. The first table shown below compares the number of tracking tests offered from 2019 to 2024.



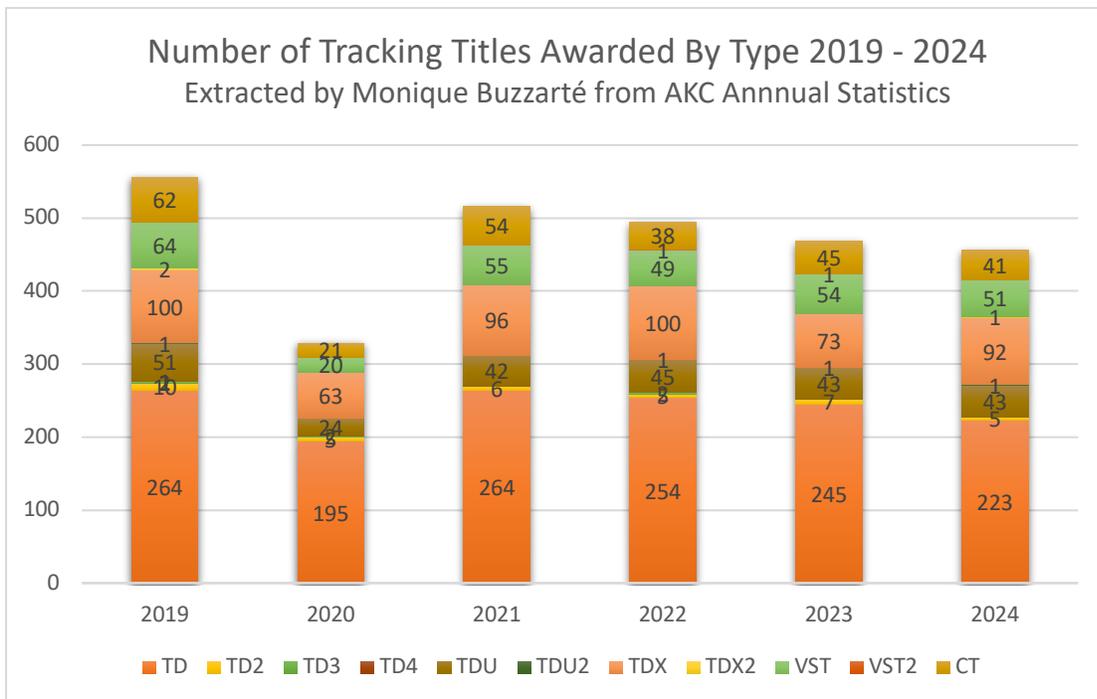
What this data indicates is that in 2019 there were 392 tests offered, followed by only 217 in 2020 due to COVID and a modest rebound beginning in 2021 at 347. After 2021 the totals continued to drop slightly and by 2024 there were 344 tests offered. TDU tests appear to be stable, but all other test types declined.

With a decline in the number of tests offered, it is interesting to see what impact this had on the number of dogs competing. As can be seen below, this table is consistent with the reduction in the number of tests offered.



In 2018 the number of dogs competing was 1,685 yet averaged 1,867 in the 3 years prior to that. It is worth noting that Scent Work trials began in 2017 and the data would suggest that this may have had an impact Tracking entries.

Another slice of the data tells us how many tracking titles were offer over time. From the below table, we can see that there were 556 titles awarded in 2019 and the number declines every year after that so that by 2024 only 457 titles were awarded. TDX titles appear to be the most stable with a high of 100 in 2019 and 2022 and 93 awarded in 2024.



While the decline in the number of dogs participating in Tracking is concerning, in the context of all dog sports, including conformation, obedience, rally, scent work, hunt tests, etc., recent information from AKC indicates that nearly all event types are

experiencing declines, with few exceptions. For 2025 Tracking seems to be running just below the same level as it did in 2024.

So what can we attribute to the decline in Tracking other than competition with other performance events? I would suggest that cost is an important factor and the largest cost is the expense to bring judges to the tests. The cost today of putting on a test when the number of tracks offered per test may be limited to less than the maximum allowed usually results in the offering club losing money. Unless the club can make up this loss with other activities and events, some clubs that are not exclusively tracking clubs may need to eliminate tracking tests altogether.

Another consideration is the time it takes to train a dog to track at a level beyond TD or TDU. Unless you are very lucky, it may take over a year of training for you and your dog to be ready to compete at TDX or VST levels. Our society is fast paced and how many people cannot or will not commit the time to train for advanced tracking? Combine this with the challenge of finding appropriate sites to train and the travel time to get to a training site, may discourage some people from tracking and instead try other performance events, such as barn hunt, fast cat, scent work, etc. Whatever the reasons, the tracking community remains committed to our sport and supportive of those who wish to learn and enjoy tracking at all levels.

Did you ever wonder what breeds achieved the most number of tracking titles in 2024? The 3 top breeds were German Shepherd Dogs (63), Golden Retrievers (52), and Labrador Retrievers (32). The number of titles awarded by breed groups are:

Sporting	176
Hounds	35
Working	46
Terrier	8
Toy	1
Non-Sporting	10
Herding	158
Misc.	5
All Amer.	18
Total	457

## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that Cris Courduff shared the loss of her beloved companion, her Heart Dog Forever, Ruger.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> I suddenly lost my German Shepherd, Ruger, to Cancer of the Spleen. On Sunday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, he made an awesome attempt at our TDX test, clearing 2 turns, crossing through a hedge row and gully, crossing both Cross Tracks and finding both articles. But then he was distracted by the horse track and jumps to our right. Maybe he thought it was an Agility course, which we both loved. On Tuesday, we ran two Agility practice courses in Barto where we train weekly. The rest of the week he was normal, running to the barn each morning to mingle with our chickens & checking the nests for eggs, and going on car trips with me to wherever. On Friday he ate his dinner at 6pm, but around 8pm I noticed he wasn't right, and took him to Quakertown Vet. An MRI showed fluid in his spleen. The needle aspiration had blood and when they operated to remove his spleen, they found numerous tumors which indicated cancer. As they were telling me this, his heart stopped, and I decided not to bring him back. It was so fast. I know you all go through this heartbreak, more than once like me, but it still hurts. Our K-9 Companions are closer to us than most of our families and friends.



Ruger  
5/31/15 – 11/8/25

I want to share this montage of my beloved companion, my Heart Dog Forever.



E Z BROOKS Hot Shot **Ruger**

We recently learned of the sudden passing of one of our newest members, **Cynthia Blemaster**. Cynthia participated in the Tracklayer Certification course in August of this year and happily volunteered to assist with our fall TD test where she carried flags and TDX test where she laid cross tracks. After the TD test she submitted her membership application, which was happily accepted. She was active in obedience training at Top Dog and she was a past breeder of Yorkshire Terriers and German Shepherds. She currently owned a Doberman Pincher. A memorial celebration was held at noon on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Priola Parsippany Funeral Service, 60 N. Beverwyck Rd., Lake Hiawatha, NJ. We wish to hold Cynthia's family in our thoughts at this difficult time.



## Lenape Brags:

### Gina DeAlmeida Vandal's Surprise VST

This past fall I decided to take some time off from a few judging assignments and enter the boys in some VST tests. Well, my wild young man named Vandal got into a test in Westboro, Massachusetts on November 9<sup>th</sup> put on by the Tracking Club of Massachusetts with judges Martha Campbell and Ray Desmarais. So, we traveled up to his first test to see how well he might do. I was hoping to make a decent showing by possibly getting a few turns in and possibly to the first interim article. This would be his maiden track with no food rewards at each of the articles. In my mind, I thought he would quit halfway through the track after

realizing "I Had No Rewards". Well, this young man proved me wrong!!!! Vandal started off with a leather square and headed out very strong (as usual) down the track. He found the first interim cloth article at 250 yards into the track on leg 2. Then after a couple of turns we headed onto the blacktop down into a parking garage under a building. Van had never been in one of these before!! It looked to me as though we were heading in one side and straight out the other side to a big parking lot. (I was so wrong.) Our MOT turn wound up being under this building! Van made his turn and headed to what I thought was a closed wall, but it was not. I didn't see a small opening that headed out to the back parking lot. (Trust Your Dog!) There was the 3rd article. It was white plastic on one of the white lines. After a bit of water and rescenting, off he goes across the parking lot onto the grass. A few more turns, we were then walking along the edge of a

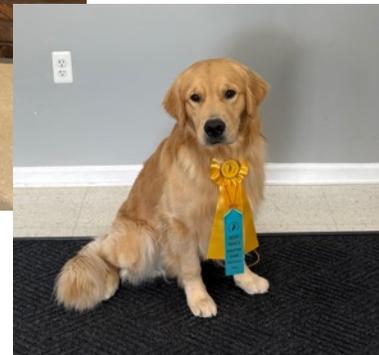


parking area, and he veered off the grass onto the blacktop to find his metal article with a #4 on it. OMG!!!! Holy Cow!!!! He Passed!!!! He's not even 2 yet!!! He did a great job for such a young boy! Loves to track! Onward to TDX!!

**Rose Mary Laubach** Ro has been busy with her boy, Remy. He recently earned his CDX and CDSP CSX CCH!!! And to top things off, he did this in great style with multiple placements. Way to go team Remy and Ro!



Luke - Remy's son - earned his AKC Beginner novice title in 3 trials - all 1st and 2nd places. He also earned 2 legs in CDSP novice in his first 2 trials. AND got his Therapy Dog Title.



**Anne Rosenberg** Anne shared that Sly earned his TDX at the On Track Agility Club of Maine test earlier this year.



Bounce earned her TD at the Hyattsville Dog Training Club test on October 19 at Fair Hill in Maryland. (Editor's note: I was the tracklayer for Bounce's track, and she did an amazing job!)



Finally, Sly's daughter, Tango, earned her TD at another On Track Agility Club of Maine test and proud breeder, Anne Rosenberg, was one of her judges.



*He is your friend, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion.*

*Unknown*

From Oct 2002 Common Scents

## Upcoming tests

<b>Jan. 4, 2026</b>	Richmond Dog Obedience Club, Hamden Sydney, VA	VST
<b>Jan. 25, 2026</b>	Durham Kennel Club, Hillsborough, NC	TD/TDX
<b>March 1, 2026</b>	Richmond Dog Obedience Club, Beaverdam, VA	TD/TDX
<b>March 15, 2026</b>	Burlington County Kennel Club, Allentown, NJ	TD/TDX
<b>March 29, 2026</b>	LEAP Agility Club of Central Mass, Bolton, CT	TD/TDX
<b>April 5, 2026</b>	Mt. Nittany Kennel Club, Penna Furnace, PA	TD/TDX
<b>April 12, 2026</b>	Buckeye Tracking Club, Chardon, OH	TD/TDX



*Gina and Toro TDX track CRC Rottweiler Specialty.*

### Contact Us

**Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey**

**[Lenapetrackingclub.org](http://Lenapetrackingclub.org)**