



Common Scents

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey
July - August Volume 29 Issue 3

President's Message

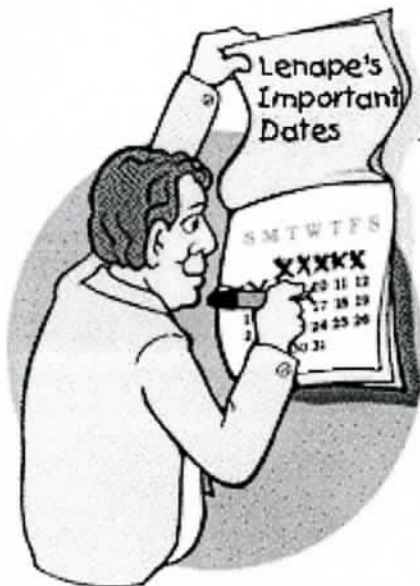
Well, we are almost at the end of July. That means summer is almost over, yeah!! I have missed very few tracking days this summer. At 6:30 am it is still cool enough and damp enough that the dogs do just fine. Our tracking has been mostly on short vegetation. The fields we normally track in are planted or are so high and so full of ticks that it is just impossible to work in.

Since hot weather is kind of a down time for doggy activities, there is not much to write about. Fall will bring a full schedule of events back in focus. Everyone needs to remember the Lenape activities that are coming up in the fall and winter. I know it is impossible for everyone to make every event but make an effort to pick at least one event and come out to help out. The two major events are the TD and TDX tests, which are Oct. 30 & 31 and Nov. 6 & 7.

On Sunday August 8th, we are having a track layers certification and brush up workshop for laying TDX tracks and cross tracks for those who are already certified. PLEASE plan on attending this, RSVP to me, John Etchels, or Teryl Lebkuecher so if something unforeseen occurs and we have to cancel we will know who to notify. Also coming up on Sept. 25 & 26 is our tracking certification match. If you have a dog that you have been working with all summer and are ready to be certified, send your entry in for the certification match. If your dog is not really ready then please do not enter and take a spot away from someone who is really ready. Well that's all for now folks!! I will end with a cute short story. This morning Teryl and I were out tracking. I had a track down for my boy, Rain, with the corners marked with clothes pins. Rain decided these pins are great and laid down indicating each and every one. So guess who won't be using clothes pins again? See you all soon.



Beverley



August 8, 2004
Track Layers Workshop /
Certification

Sept. 26, 2004
Certification Workshop

October 31, 2004
Tracking Dog Test

Nov. 7, 2004
Tracking Dog Excellent Test

Lenape's Proposed New Members

The following person(s) have applied for membership in the Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey. They have fulfilled all of the requirements of new members and will become members in 30 days from the mailing of this newsletter unless we receive written comments as to why they should not become a member.

Dr. Judith Barker
183 Northfield Rd.
Millington, NJ 07946
908-647-6347
judithbarker@patmedia.net
Recommended by Peg Forte and Beverly Olsen



Brag and Tidbits



Peter Weber...Sunshine, Cardigan Welsh Corgi, took Best of Breed and a Group 1 at the June NEMBOC UKC show to finish his championship. He is a handsome boy!

Sunday, August 8, 2004



Lenape Tracking Club will be offering a Track Layer Certification / Workshop in preparation for the upcoming TD and TDX trials. The TDX track laying instruction will run from 8 am to 10 am. The TD track layer certification will follow at 10 am to 2 pm. Please notify John Etchells at 908-236-2423 if you plan on attending.



Lenape Tracking Club Central New Jersey

Officers:

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Vice President: Alice Crans 908-537-2574
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Physical Fitness for Doghandlers

By G.D. Murray April 22, 1998
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We have set standards for our dogs for years. Test upon test, all of them judged, timed and critiqued by judges and evaluators. The results of these tests can be seen by the certificates, titles and all the initials behind our animals' names.

It's time we look at the other end of the leash. You know, the end that takes all the credit when the team is successful and dishes out all the reasons for the dogs mistakes when they fail.

Training a dog from start to finish is a very physical job. Whether you are training a dog for competition, Police Work, or SAR.



Too often you will see a doghandler from a SAR group standing in front of a T.V. microphone carrying about 30 pounds of extra nutrition, or a Peace Officer walking his dog back to the patrol car big and burly but it's not all bullet proof vest, and the competition field...well thank goodness it's a field you may need the room.

If standards apply to our animals they should also apply to the handlers. People fail to remember that we work with these dogs as a team. A team is like a chain, it is only as strong as it's weakest link. Are you your teams weakest link????

Now the idea of a physical standard for doghandlers may not apply to competition dog people. Firstly it is a sport or hobby for most people and therefore open to all. But take a good look at the people who are doing all the winning. All are in good physical shape.

There are a number of reasons for this. The most obvious one is that they are doing lots of training to get their dogs to such a high standard. With that training comes physical fitness(unless you bought your dog and someone else trains it and you show it). Also in order to work a dog properly you need timing, strength, agility and stamina. All of these points come with physical fitness.

A physical standard for doghandlers really applies to working dog handlers such as SAR and Police doghandlers.

Police doghandlers you would think would be the group that would be physically fit. In a lot of cases this is true, but there are far to many examples that are not. Some of this is the Departments fault as they 1)Do not have a physical standard for their regular officers. 2)Do not have a physical standard for their doghandlers. {some administrations do not realize the need for a separate standard for doghandlers} 3)Do not enforce the standards they have in place.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police went to a physical standard over 12 years ago. Which is tested every year during the 1 week validation of the team. When it first came out and was being phased in there was lots of complaining(Yes I complained too).

But once in place it proved to be the best thing that Dog Section could have done at the time.

It removed some handlers from the section who were having trouble making the decision that it was time to move on. It kept a great deal of people who were not dedicated enough to be good doghandlers out of the section. But most importantly it improved the quality of the doghandlers that remained in the section.

Physical Fitness for Doghandlers

Continued...

The first standard that the RCMP used was a 4 mile run under 32 mins., 5 reverse pull-ups, sit-ups (to the good to excellent level of the Canada fitness standard for your age in one min. which was about 40+, push-ups(with out stopping).

Since that standard a second more modern one has been developed and now is being used. It is run in a circuit fashion, 8 laps, completed in a certain time. The circuit involves stairs, long jumps, height jumps, lifting, dragging and ducking under a bar. This newest standard reflects a better evaluation of a handlers overall fitness. Yet lots of handlers think that the 4 mile run should still be in place with the new standard.

SAR doghandlers you would also think would be in great shape but they too fall short of the mark. The main reason I feel that this occurs is that a great deal of these sections are made up of volunteers. With this mind some units standards do not reflect just what the handler should be able to do and it is hard to enforce standards on volunteers. More often than not this is a style of work that a person can purchase a trained dog test the dog to a standard and off to work they go.

The bottom line is working a dog is a physical, demanding job. We demand a testable limit of our dogs and yet we do not ask the same of the handler(in most cases). Bare in mind also these standards we test our dogs to are not to real life situations. They are set up so the evaluator can see if the dog is working. Plus he/she may have to test a number of dogs in a day so these evaluations are just on working attributes of the animal. Not an 8 hour shift, or 1 full day searching.

In order to be an effective handler no matter what it is for, competition, Police work, or SAR. You have to be physically fit which includes being aerobically fit, upper body strength and agility. All of this will lead to you being a better handler and a better team.

Maybe it's time we started working on the loop end of the leash and set some standards for our selves. Get a Medical Dr's approval and get into a fitness program. Your dog may be able to work a whole lot better if they don't have to drag 200+ pounds around.

Tracking Certification Workshop

Sunday, September 26, 2004

AKC Judge Beth Goodbody



Here is your chance to get the dog you have been working with certified to enter an AKC Tracking Dog Test. Please see the entry form enclosed in this newsletter. For more information or questions, contact Carol Shields at 732-787-4209 or woof4@verizon.net. Don't have a dog ready? Then come out and help with the event. We are always in need of volunteers willing to lend a hand. Contact John Etchells at 908-236-2423 if you would like to come out and support your club.

Cadi Gets Her TDX

By Teryl Lebkuecher

Cadi is my 7 year old Cardigan Welsh Corgi. Tracking has been fun for her because it is low stress.. It is just she and I out in a field, no other dogs or people and there is a big bowl of food at the glove. This is the perfect situation for my shy girl. Cadi was in two other TDX trials without much luck. Both of the trials ended just as quickly as they started. She got lost at the first turn despite not doing this in training. But this is a very common scenario at TDX trials so I kept plugging away always hoping that she would pass a test.

June 6, 2004, Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Gardner, Mass., Judges Randie Meyer and Arthur Twiss, Bev Olsen and I arrive at the test site. What a beautiful day for a tracking test. It was cool and cloudy with little spurts of rain. Three dogs were entered. I drew track # 2. The first dog went, which was my other dog but that is another story. Cadi's turn now. We drove part way to the track and the judges took us the rest of the way just so we don't get stuck in the mud. The judges walked with us within sight of the start flag. Yup, they said it "There is your start flag, begin when you are ready and good luck". Off we went. Cadi had a good start, no hesitation. The grass was VERY tall. I thought for sure I would be able to see the track but I couldn't. Cadi makes a turn. I don't hear a whistle. She was on a mission moving quickly down the track. I was pleased as I could be because this was further than we had gotten before...who cares what she did now...SHE MADE THE FIRST TURN! Another turn came. Now I was grinning from ear to ear...two turns and no whistle. Cadi stopped and sat...holly Christmas, she was at an article. Well now I truly was the happiest person on the earth...we had an article. I raised that belt so high I think I touched the clouds. I no longer had a job but to hold the leash. Cadi was in full control. Two more turns, no whistle, the longest leg she had ever done running next to a tree line, over ruts filled with water, two more turns. Now I had lost track of all time. Unbelievable, Cadi sat again and I picked up a sock and I was thinking, "This is one long track". Change of cover, another turn. "It had to end soon. I think we walked back to NJ." Cadi slowed down and started to wander around like she was lost. Okay, what do I do now? I backed up, maybe she missed a turn. Cadi kept her nose to the ground but she just couldn't decide where she wanted to go. I was looking for a glove...I'd shoot myself if I missed it. No glove. More wandering from the dog. I turned and looked for the judges. They were just standing there. I encouraged Cadi but she was just lost. The judges come walking up and Cadi was happy to see them and ran toward them. "What the hell is this? This dog is never happy to see anyone, let alone strangers." They asked me if I want the title. Now I was totally confused. Was this a trick question? Bev never told me about this. How do I answer? Is there a right answer? I stumbled over words, not even knowing what I was saying. The judges then told me that she had earned the title. "I don't have the glove." "We know." Then the story of the man with two loose dogs who would not move away from the track was told. Cadi had a TDX...was this for real...it sure was! 990 yards, 3 hours 15 minutes old, 7 turns, 40 minutes of sniffing and Cadi had a TDX.

I owe a great deal to Bev Olsen. Without her help, guidance and patience Cadi would not have this title. I hope Bev is up for a VST.

