

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hoping everyone's had a great summer. We're now into tracking season, our CCTC TD test was held October 19/2003, with the most perfect weather and field conditions anyone could ever ask for. They were the fields of dreams. It was great to have Heather MacLeod fly up from New-Brunswick to judge for us. She was a very fair judge.

We had 13 dogs entered and 11 dogs passed. All tracks were in moist alfalfa fields as it had rained the night before. We then had partly sunny all day.

Four of the dogs that passed were Club members' dogs. Track # 2 was Anne Passafiume with her Portuguese water dog CH. Toraq's Moonlight'n Shadows CD AGN TD "Tango"

Track # 11 was Maryke Warwick with her Labrador retriever CH. Castlegar Elliott CD WC JH TD "Elliott"

Track # 1 was Sue Coutts with one of her German Shepherd Dogs in the test Carmspack Trust TD "Trust"

Then on track # 6 with her second German Shepherd Dog, Keepers Maggie-Mae TD "Maggie-Mae"

There were 5 track layers this time ; Corie Bonnaffon , Sandra Coombs , Jackie Me-harg , Eileen Fisher and Sue Godbehere, who all did a superb job and received their little CCTC foot crest to sew on their hat or coat.

The food as usual was wonderful after the test when everyone is starving. The food is all brought in by Club members and it always turns out to be a great pot luck !

Pictures were taken of Heather presenting each rosette to all who qualified. We even got group pictures. That's when a wide- angle lens would have come in handy with this many passes.

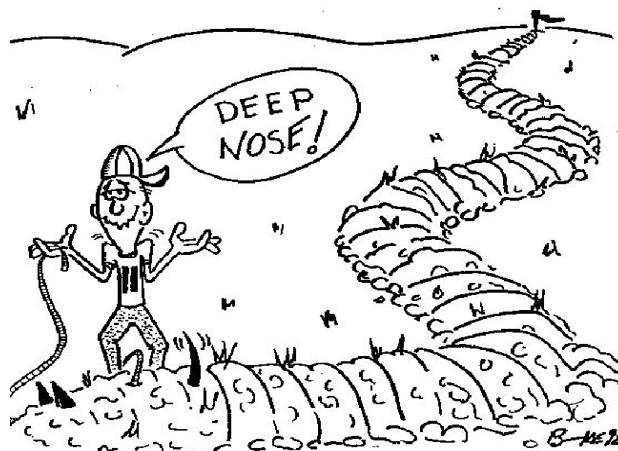
So, Congratulations to everyone who went home with a CCTC enormous rosette or two !

Elaine Gray has been busy placing orders for coats, shirts, hats and liners.

On Sept. 14/03 the CCTC executives hosted a TD test for NAMBR { North American Mixed Breed Registry }

There were two dogs entered. Both had a problem with their second corner. Eileen Fisher and Maryke Warwick were the track layers and Marie-P Babin judged the test.

November 9th /2003 will be our TDX test. Let us know how you could help. Your Club executives appreciate everything you can do for your Club.
Club Pres. Marie-P.Babin.



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CAL MILLAR/TORONTO STAR

Toronto police Constable Craig Tourangeau says Aldo, a new police dog, did it by the book when he tracked down a gun and drugs.

Dog has his day in robbery case

New tracker comes through

Finds gun tied to home invasion

CAL MILLAR
STAFF REPORTER

A rookie police dog located a gun and some crack cocaine found after police arrested a teenager in connection with a Scarborough home-invasion robbery.

Police sealed off streets in the Sheppard Ave. and Morningside Ave. area early Monday after two young men attacked a young couple in a break-in at their Brenyon Way home.

Police said the attackers struck a 20-year-old woman over the head with a gun and tied her hands behind her back before confronting a 19-year-old man who was also in the house. The victims received cuts and bruises in the attack but didn't require hospital treatment.

After stealing a number of items from the house, the two attackers fled, police said. But one was spotted by officers pa-

trolling nearby. Police said the young man ran when they tried to question him.

Later, a resident alerted police after seeing the suspect flag down a passing taxi. Police stopped the vehicle nearby and arrested the suspect.

Police then called for a dog to search the area. Aldo, a 2-year-old German shepherd and the newest Toronto police dog, located a hat that police believe was used as a disguise during the robbery about a kilometre away from the crime scene.

The dog then helped locate a loaded 9-mm pistol under a bush. It was found cocked and ready to fire. Two grams of crack cocaine were also found.

"All in all, it was a very good search by Aldo," said Constable Craig Tourangeau, Aldo's handler.

When trained as a police dog, Aldo had been given specialized instruction to enable him to detect firearms.

The youth arrested, who cannot be named publicly, faces robbery and drug charges.

A second suspect is still being sought.

North American Mixed Breed Registry Tracking Test

On Sunday Sept. 14, 2003 the second NAMBR tracking test took place.

While the skies were grey, the rain kindly held off. A little cool, but that was good for the canine half of the teams.

There were two dogs entered this year, and unfortunately, neither passed.

Quiet Wyatt, a BC cross handled by Ginny Neher, got off to a good start, negotiated the first turn, then on the second corner, headed south instead of north.

My Milo must have been watching Wyatt, as he did the same thing on his track!

Despite our patient judge, who gave both dogs lots of time to relocate the track, both were whistled off. Once they were pointed in the right direction though, they made a strong finish to the end, and found their articles.

Better luck next time!

I would like to thank Ginny & Wyatt, our terrific judge Marie P Babin, track layers Maryke Warwick and Eileen Fisher, and equipment manager extraordinaire, Mel Babin.

Sue Godbehere

Dog property laws

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my mouth, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
6. If I'm chewing something up, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it just looks like mine, it's mine.
8. If I saw it first, it's mine.
9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
10. If it's broken, it's yours.

Skunk Deodorizer

A wonderful home product that really works. If your dog or who ever should get sprayed by a skunk here is something works.

- 1/2 bottle or 250 ml of hydrogen peroxide
- 1 tbs. of dish soap
- 3 tbs. of baking soda

Mix these three ingredients thoroughly and spray or splash on affected area. You will almost immediately notice the smell will disappear. Leave on for about a minute or two and then wash off using a good shampoo.

If you leave it on to long before washing the peroxide will start to bleach out your hair color, it isn't necessary to leave it on very long as it works very quickly to neutralize the smell.

SIMLPE TRACK GONE AWRY

Don't you hate when your plans don't work out?!!

I planned last night to do two motivational tracks early this morning for two dogs I'm working towards a TD. Easy tracks but with traffic distraction, as that's where the only problem is; we don't see much in most of our training, and went to a field not often used by us. I wanted to be back home within an hour and a half as I had other things I had to do today.... (the point here is - easy and quick)!!

Well, the first one had something weird going through the field overnight; we're used to deer so it wasn't that.

Anyway, on to the second one and just as we are heading to the start had 3 people on horses come up to see what we were doing. We have a horse, so didn't expect such a commotion. Tracking dog turned into watch dog which pretty much destroyed our start at the scent pad. However, she settled down once they left and did fine on the track. Removed harness at article as I always do and we played with glove, started walking back and continued playing with glove. About 3/4 there, discovered I had dropped her harness.

We were in a field that was fairly growthy with mixed grass and clover. Her harness is black. (next one will be fluorescent pink or lime green!!)

How hard can it be to walk back the way you came and find the harness? She wasn't terribly interested in looking for something else but I encouraged her to do so, figuring (hoping) she would indicate if she came across it, since it was "hers".

We walked back and forth 4 x. I couldn't believe we couldn't find it. I didn't want to keep her looking as she really had no idea what we were doing there--she had done her track. Didn't want to have to come back later or go and tell farmer I lost something in his field. Figured I might as well put her away and go and walk it myself which would take ages; so much for my plans for the rest of the morning.

But, then little lightbulb went on over my head! Spook! who has her TDX and is always so good and so keen. I figured I had a good chance with her so decided to go home and bring her back.

This turned into a good learning experience for me. Wasn't sure if I should just have her go back into the area I thought it would be or try having her do the track we had completed, taking us hopefully right to the end and then maybe on to the harness. Decided to try that. She never left the track that I had walked, ignoring where Trust had gone off a couple of times and found where the article had been left at the end. I gave her a pc. of hot dog and encouraged her to continue looking. What she did was then follow where I had walked out, rather than where we had played. So I rewarded her again and then encouraged her once more to walk back into the area with me on a loose line and continue to look for something. Sure enough, a couple of minutes later she was obviously searching for it in an area well trampled by us numerous times and indicated. I walked over, still didn't see the stupid thing until I was right there beside her. I just love this dog!

Although my plans have had to change, it was an interesting experience.

susan coutts



Spook

**CROSS COUNTRY TRACKING CLUB
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POT LUCK &
GENERAL MEETING**

**ON FRIDAY , DECEMBER 12, 2003
at 7:00 pm
EILEEN FISHER'S HOME**

INTRODUCTION TO K9 SEARCH & RESCUE presented by Kim Cooper

On Sept.20th, approximately 35 people and 12 dogs participated in a rather unique seminar for our area - that being a little south of North Bay, Ont.

Kim Cooper from the Ottawa area put on a most interesting day for us - Introduction to K9 Search & Rescue.

We had quite an assortment of dog breeds and ages from total novices to quite experienced in some sort of tracking or rescue; 4 GSD's, 1 lab., 2 goldens, 1 aussie, 1 belgian shepherd, 1 mixed breed, 1 bernese mtn.dog, the youngest was a 5 month old bouvier.

Kim puts on a really interesting seminar and is truly passionate about SAR. The classroom work is most informative before going out to the fields.

We began with the novice dogs in tracking fields with Kim handling the dogs who were to find their owners.

Some dogs did really well, while others seemed a little confused about why they were there. However, they were all successful.

After lunch - yes we all eat like good CCTC members who would be proud of us!! - we went to the "Search" field. It was really interesting to see how the dogs reacted here, especially those that had been trained to "track" with their noses down.

Kim put everyone through a good workout. I doubt if many came away wanting to pursue search and rescue once they found out the extreme amount of work and training that it involved; but I know everyone learned to appreciate it and some learned something new about their dogs that day. I'm sure everyone had a great day.

susan cotts



TRACKING VOCABULARY

AGE: The time between when a track is laid and the time a dog is put on it.

ARTICLE: The object to be found at the end of the track, in the TD level: an inconspicuous glove or wallet.

CASTING: When a dog comes to a turn and searches for the new direction, or when he loses the track or the scent trail for any reason, and hunts around to find it again.

CERTIFICATION: A dog must be certified by a tracking judge before it can enter an American Tracking test.

CONVERSION: Determining your length of stride and converting it to meters.

CORNER: When the track changes direction, this is a corner. An open corner is a turn of wider than 90 degrees. A normal corner is 90 degrees, and an closed corner is tighter than 90 degrees. A TD test has 3 to 5 corners in it.

COVER: The type and length of vegetation where a track is laid.

FLAG: A metal or wood dowel with tape or banner attached. Two are needed to start a TD track; one to mark the start and one to indicate the direction the track goes.

HARNESS: A non-restrictive nylon or leather is best.

LUNGE LINE: A 30 to 40 foot cotton lunge line.

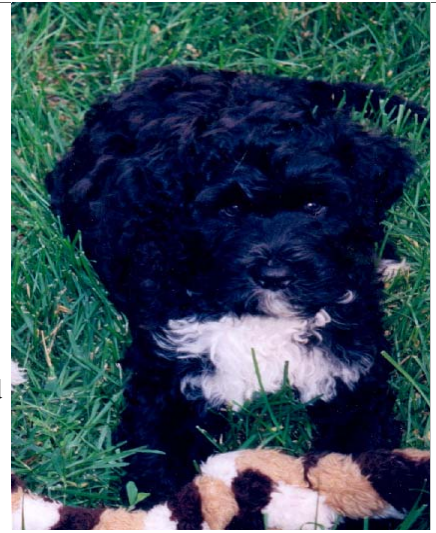
LEG: The straight part of the track of various lengths.

LENGTH: Total length of the track from starting flag to article. A TD track is 400 to 450 meters.

STAND: Whenever a dog wanders off the track, or when it casts at a corner to find the new direction, the handler must stand still until the dog finds its direction.

TURN: Same as CORNER

Kewbeach Dancing up a Storm aka Samba joined the Passafiume household in June. Tango welcomed him with open paws and is so pleased to have a playmate. Bogart wishes he would leave and not come back!!



On July 20th Marlo got two legs on her CD and High in Trial. On Sept 27th she finished her CD. She got her Junior Hunter Title on Oct 5th.

Castlegar Marlo at Autumwynd CD WC JH



Elliott & Marlo

In Sept Elliott finished his Companion Dog title. In Oct he qualified for his Junior Hunter title and he passed his Tracking Dog title.

CH Castlegar Elliott CD WC JH TD

The four passing member dogs



Carmspack Trust TD



Keepers Maggie-Mae TD



CH. Toraq's Moonlight'n Shadows CD AGN TD



CH Castlegar Elliott CD WC JH TD



Eileen Fisher's Kavik passed 2 legs for his CD Oct 25 & 26 in Bracebridge

Michelle Visentin's Danny got 2 HITS from the Novice class getting 2 legs for his CD on Oct 25th & 26th in Bracebridge



2003 AKC National Tracking Invitational – September 20th and 21st, 2003 Asheville, NC

The first AKC National Tracking Invitational was a showcase for the 10 top champion tracking dogs in the country. Every dog and handler did a phenomenal job demonstrating the ability of the dog to detect odors so faint, their highly developed sense of smell to find lost humans or animals, and to detect drugs, bombs or other articles. Eight different breeds from ten states were entered, one travelling all the way from California to take part in the event.

Here is the Judges comments and the owner's story of one of the successful tracks.

FC CT Owl Farms Rising Star ML VCD3 MX MXJ NJP ME Mini Longhaired Dachshund
Owned and handled by Betsy Fortman

Comments from the Judges

Ms. Jill Jones of Brownsville, OR and Mr. Robert Brown of Broken Arrow, OK

At plotting the judges felt that this was the most physically challenging track, however no one told this to the dog! Dog started nice went down 1st leg and made nice corner into small creek. Dog proceeded on 2nd leg through heavy brush and up steep hill. On 2nd leg tracked across horse path used for endurance race on Saturday, dog ignored horse path and official cross tracks and made 2nd corner. Turned corner and found 2nd article 30 yds down leg. Continued down 3rd leg and made 3rd corner. The 4th leg was very long in tall rough grass. Dog and handler stopped for drink several times on this leg. 4th leg also had rough brush going down hill and back to creek, it took the dog a while to get out of creek. Dog emerged from woods on to mowed grass on shoulder of busy road, dog made corner at road and 40 yds later found 3rd article, The dog then ran the final 120 yds final article with cheers from spectators.

Owner Betsy Fortman's account

Elvis's track started in some tall but not overly thick grass. My starting technique (much to the judges dismay) is to carry Elvis to the start flag, hold him there for a second or two, and then let him find the track. It works very well for us as Elvis (knock wood) has never failed to start. So about 10 yards into the track Elvis veers off to the left. I thought I could see the track going straight ahead, but I can't stop him. After a couple of seconds of checking out the area he hops back on the track and proceeds nicely to the first corner. It's a nice ninety degree left turn. In about 5 yards he comes to a dip in the ground which turned out to be a very small creek. I usually help him over these things, but he hopped over it and proceeded another 20 yards up to a thick bunch of trees with rose bushes growing under them. I thought we were done for, and I hoped the track went around the brush. But Elvis told me it went through and that he did not think that going through was a good idea (he has very tender little feetsies). It only took a few seconds of encouragement and he decided it might not be too painful so he walked on through while I bent over getting scratched by the thorns (and having some very bad thoughts about my judges who I knew would walk around this obstacle). Once on the other side of the brush the grass resumed and EHe kept stopping to check out critters and every time he did, I had to take a quick peek to see if it was an article. We went another 140 yards before we had a ninety degree right turn. The grass got a little thicker and Elvis had to work a bit harder to bunny-hop his way through. This was an 80 yard leg with an article. We then made an open turn to the right in the thicker grass. Elvis was getting quite hot at this point and when we got to a small (about 1 foot high) rose bush in the track he decided to look for critters instead. So I gave him some water (inside and out) and cajoled him to keep going. His response was to lie down. I let him rest and cool off for a few seconds before I decided to treat the rose bush as an obstacle. I checked with the judges and got their approval to pick him up and place him on the other side of the rose bush. That made him happy and we moved on. Then we got to about 3 strands of rose branches across the track. Another obstacle. Up and over that and on to a small creek.

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That's our story and we're sticking to it!
Betsy



Betsy Fortman and "Elvis"



Beware of Maryke's TDX Practice Tracks !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

One Sunday morning, Maryke suggested that we could go to a large field near us to practice our TD and TDX dogs. I thought it was a great idea and packed dog and equipment in the car. Fortunately I had the intuition to include my knee brace and leather gloves. In hindsight, I would also have put in a hard hat, a snorkel and emergency flares!!

I arrived to find that Maryke had already taken much of the short grass for Elliott's track. This left some strips of short grass surrounding a huge unknown area of tall wavy stuff, which I must say looked innocent enough. I was a little suspicious when Maryke returned after laying Kavik's TDX track looking somewhat the worse for wear and saying that we would have to do that one last because we wouldn't feel like doing any tracking after it!!!

After all the Labs had tracked it was time for Kavik and I to start Maryke's track. I harnessed Kavik up and we went to the start. I was beginning to get complacent as he motored up the first leg in the short grass. That came to an abrupt end when he made a sharp turn into the longer stuff. At first it was great fun in waist high silky grasses, which swished around us.

Kavik was invisible but the line danced. ahead and occasionally I saw two ears bob up and disappear again. Suddenly the line went slack and I bushwhacked my way in the general direction, to find Kavik at the first article. I praised him and thought the worst must be over. Maryke then maintained morale by saying that it got worse from here and not to worry if he only made it to the next article!!

Sure enough, suddenly I was in a mix of vegetation up to my shoulders and ominous squelching sounds coming from the direction of my feet. As I tried to negotiate these hazards not only was Kavik invisible, so was most of the line!!! Then to make matters worse I tripped and fell, submerged from the bright sunny day into a dark abyss of wet vegetation. Kavik came back to see what was going on, which further complicated the situation by tangling his line around everything between us. Eventually the two of us freed ourselves and continued on our perilous journey.

After what seemed ages, he somehow found the next article five feet below on the ground. I should have heeded Maryke when she said to reward him and call it a day!!!! But no, with true CCTC resolve, we continued to the end. After another fall and what seemed like another mile of high vegetation, we emerged back into the short stuff like corks out of bottles. Kavik found the last glove under a tree and dog, handler and tracklayer all collapsed there in a heap.

As I said, beware of Maryke's practice tracks, you never know what will turn up or down for that matter!!!

from an exhausted Eileen and Kavik