

Summer 2005

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May 8/05 was the CCTC TD test held in Clarington Ont. under a warm and sunny sky. The fields were hilly and the vegetation was of alfalfa and grass mix.

Our Judge was John Wilhelm of Belwood Ont. and our experienced track layers were; Jackie Meharg, Maryke Warwick, Susie Coutts, Cynthia Thomas, Candi Rennie, and our equipment manager Frank Downs was there to make sure every post and glove was accounted for.

Unfortunately only one dog passed this time. A Belgian Malanois bitch named "AIKA VON SCHOERLING TD " owned and handled by Natalie Heath of Kanata Ont. who ran all the way and finished in three minutes.

The others entered had different difficulties. There was a Border Terrier who got to the first corner to find a white cat hiding in the grass. "Can't hide from a Terrier !"

A Golden Ret. who lost the track on the last corner. A Labrador Ret. who tracked downwind on a couple of the legs and missed the article for that reason. A Vizsla who tracked beautifully but

went the wrong way on the second corner. A Doberman Pinscher who had a great start but on the second corner, had enough difficulty to make him give up, a Rhodesian Ridgeback who went passed the first corner, and, a German Shepherd Dog who also missed the first corner.

Marie



Judge Jack Wilhelm presenting the qualifying rosette to Natalie Heath

Members' Brags



Susan Coutts with “Carmspack Trust CD TD”
Earned her CD on April 1/05
Judge Barb Scott



Susan Coutts with “Keeper’s Maggie-Mae TDX”
First PEN dog of any breed to earn a TDX title
in Canada Nov. 21/04



Pamela Burns with “Popagana Von Lowenherz TD CGN JE”
Earned her Junior Earthdog title on June 26/05 and at her first
field trial, she was the “Absolute Winner” Story on page 6.
Photo by Jolanta Jeannenay



Kathleen Dahmer with her Kuvasz
Am/Can CH Brantwood’s Harmony Of Light Am.TDX
Can. TD, CL1-H, VC, TT, CHIC, CGC, TDI
Earning his Am. TDX on May 24/05
“Beamer’s story on page 8”



Inlyn Pegg's Mountain Treasure, WC CD JH Treasure earned her CD Aug 6th at the TRIO dog show. She also earned her JH Sept 11th.



Victory's Mackenzie CDX AGX VMADC VMJDC Am.CDX Kennie earned her Veterans Master Jumpers Dog of Canada this summer. She also earned her Masters Standard title Sept 10th



Can OTCH Heron Acres Sand By Me WC Am UD Mia earned both Canadian & American UD titles on the same weekend this Spring.



Robilanes' Rock On CD "Rocky" earned his CD April 30 at the Hamilton Dog Club

ATChC, OTCH, CH & U-CD Autumngold Dawson's Creek Am. CD, RNMCL, RAMCL, NAC, NJC, OGC, RS-N, NAJ, AGI, FM, PT, HI, HTDI-s, HRDI-s CGC, CGN, TDI

July - Tyler finished the following agility titles: CL4-F, CL4-H, CL4-S, CL4-R, O-OGC, OAC, NT At the Agility Association of Canada's Agility Nationals in



Upcoming Tracking Tests for 2005

**September 25, 2005 THORNDALE, ON (TD TDX) for All Breeds,
German Shepherd Dog Club of London.**

Contact: Sharon Smith, 20170 Fairview Road, RR 2, Thorndale, ON, N0M 2P0
Tel: 519-461-1909

October. 8,9, 2005 Thunder Bay Kennel & Training Club Inc. (TD TDX)

Contact: Nancy Hicks, 1258 Riverdale Rd., Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1N1
Tel: 807-475-7933

October 09, 2005 FORT ERIE, ON (TD TDX),

Newark Tracking & Training Associates.

Contact: Jerry Burke, 3066 Bowen Road, RR 2, Stevensville, ON, L0S 1S0
Tel: 905-382-3087

October 09, 2005 FORT ERIE, ON (UTD),

Newark Tracking & Training Associates.

Contact: Jerry Burke, 3066 Bowen Road, RR 2, Stevensville, ON, L0S 1S0
Tel: 905-382-3087

October 16, 2005 LIVELY, ON (TD),

Sudbury & District Kennel Club Inc.

Contact: Ms. Leah A.M. Swatko, 7404 Hwy 17 W RR 1, Worthington, ON, P0M 3H0
Tel: 705-866-5312

October 16, 2005 CLARINGTON, ON (TD),

Cross Country Tracking Club.

Contact: Ms. Eileen J.A. Fisher, 53 Walkerton Dr. Markham, ON L3P 1H9
Tel 905-294-7016

November 06, 2005 CLARINGTON, ON (TDX),

Cross Country Tracking Club.

Contact: Ms. Eileen J.A. Fisher, 53 Walkerton Dr. Markham, ON L3P 1H9
Tel 905-294-7016

November 13, 2005 FORT ERIE, ON (TD TDX),

Newark Tracking & Training Associates.

Contact: Jerry Burke, 3066 Bowen Road, RR 2, Stevensville, ON, L0S 1S0
Tel: 905-382-3087

November 13, 2005 FORT ERIE, ON (UTD),

Newark Tracking & Training Associates.

Contact: Jerry Burke, 3066 Bowen Road, RR 2, Stevensville, ON, L0S 1S0
Tel: 905-382-3087

November 20, 2005 CLARINGTON ON (TD)

North American Mixed Breed Registry

Contact: Sue Godbehre 905-723-3798
suegodbehre@hotmail.com

Pet Celebration Cake

from Company's Coming Gifts from the Kitchen

1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
 1/2 cup cooking oil
 1/2 cup coarse liverwurst
 jar of strained beef with broth baby food
 4 large eggs
 4 beef jerky dog treats broken into pieces
 cheese slices to garnish



Combine flour and baking powder in a large bowl and set aside
 Beat cooking oil liverwurst baby food and eggs together in a medium bowl until smooth

Fold in beef jerky treats. Add to flour mixture. Spread batter in a greased foil lined 8 inch round pan

Bake in 325 F for about 50 minutes until cooked.

Cool. Turn out onto serving platter.

Cut pet's name out of cheese slices and arrange on top of cake.

Ok - I have too many dogs having a birthday at once to go all Martha on the cheese slice names so I actually just decorated the cake with *spray* whipped cream because my crew loves it :)

This is supposed to be good for cats too.

Gone but not forgotten

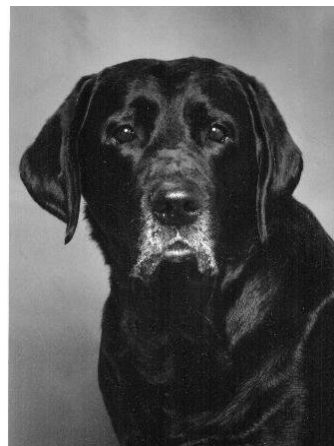
“Tanker” went to the Rainbow Bridge on June 6/05

He will be remembered as the kindest dog.

He was a great tracking dog.

Landmark's Super Tanker CD WC TDX TT CGC Am CD

March 16,1991 --- June 6, 2005



“Nitro”

"Carmspack Nitro TD, SchH I, TT,

Born Sept. 10, 1992, died Aug.13,2005.

He loved to work, particularly in Schutzhund which he didn't start [until he was over five. He loved watching television and would watch for his favourite programs and commercials. When he heard the sport's announcer he would watch, hopefully, as baseball was one of his favourites. He was the smartest dog I have ever known and we miss him terribly.



Poppy and Streak's First Field Trial - an Absolute Success!

"What am I doing here?" That question kept popping into my mind while preparing for our first Dachshund Field Trial in New York State. What is a Field Trial you ask? These competitions test a Dachshund's above ground hunting qualities by judging their ability to scent track wild rabbits. The first thing to know about these trials is that the dogs do not come into physical contact with the rabbit and there is no blood shed in this sport. Instead, the dogs are marked on accurately following the scent line, willingness to enter heavy brush, their ability to voice while tracking the rabbit and many other points. I have two Standard Wirehaired Dachshunds; Popagana CGN, TD (call name Poppy) and Streak, a 10-month-old puppy. This is the story of our first serious attempt at Field Trial.

The first day of the trial dawned warm and dry - not great conditions for holding scent. For a lark, I entered Streak to see what would happen. Streak and I were anxiously following the gallery of beaters (these are people who beat the brush paths in order to flush out a rabbit) and were waiting to hear "Tallyho!" This word or "the Tally" lets you know that a rabbit has moved out of the brush and the judges are making sure they've seen where the rabbit came out and where it went so that they can judge the dog's performance. Once the judges confirm the rabbits movements, you move up to where they want you to release the dogs. Streak's Tally was called and the competition was on. Streak was braced with a more experienced dog (in Dachshund Field Trials, the dogs are "braced" or randomly paired with another dog of the same sex). Imagine my surprise when released from his slip line, Streak put his nose down on the track and didn't look back. Imagine my even bigger surprise when Streak defeated his brace mate and was called back to defend a fourth place out of 10 entries. In the end, Streak got his fourth place and the first rosette of his life! Unfortunately, Poppy blew it and wasn't called back in her series. Somewhat disappointed, we went back to the hotel and almost didn't come back for the second day of the trial.

Overnight it rained and cooled down. Poppy loves to track when it is cool, so I thought, "Let's go back and try this again." Poppy's first brace was called and as soon as her nose went down I knew she had the scent line. Then she "opened", which means she's voicing while she's tracking. This is important because in a real hunting situation, it allows the hunter to know that the dog is indeed on a rabbit track. In a Field Trial, extra points are given to a Dachshund that opens versus one that is tracking silently.

Poppy was called back and was standing in second place of the 16 bitches entered in her field. On her next brace, when "Tallyho" was called, Poppy opened before she caught the line...then she tracked and tracked, and tracked. By the time the judges called to pick up the dogs, Poppy was out of sight. This is one aspect of Field Trials I'm not use to - all that ring obedience training simply doesn't seem to register with the dog and they are GONE. Luckily, these trials are held in fenced in areas. Also, the dogs are expected to obey field commands and you do have about 15 minutes to find and pick up your dog. In this case, it seemed like a very long 15 minutes of running and calling for Poppy at the top of my lungs. The gallery finally called to me that Poppy had returned to the original release point. Poppy had once again defeated her brace mate and was now standing in first place for the Open Bitch Stakes. She had to run one more brace to successfully defend first place - and she did it. Poppy was declared the winner of her competition. Now came the hard part. Poppy would have to run against "Willie" a Standard Longhair, for the "Best of Winners." The temperature had risen and the ground had dried out. I wasn't feeling very confident as these are not conditions Poppy likes. The Tally was called; I released Poppy and after a merry chase, came back to the gallery where Poppy was declared the winner. She would now have to run against the Trial's 1st place Field Champion, "Scooby" who had defeated 23 other Field Champions that day, for the Absolute Title.

Indeed, the pressure was now really on. - Knees shaking, "Tally - ho!!" was called again. Poppy and Scooby got to the mark at the same time, but I released Poppy too late - she was off the line. My heart sank - I had cost her the Absolute title with green horn handling. But wait! Poppy corrected herself and she was right back on the track, while Scooby was not. She opened and tracked that rabbit. The judges called that they had seen enough. Again, Poppy was out of sight but she had been declared the Absolute Winner for the entire Field Trial!

Only afterwards did it sink in about what Poppy and Streak accomplished over the weekend. This is different from any form of competition we had experienced before and we still have lots to learn. But what fun to see your dogs do what they were born to do. Also, what fun to meet new people and learn about a different sport for your dog. Yes, this Field Trial had been an absolute success....I think we'll go again.

Pamela Burns

The Tracking Bug: What is it?

Submitted by Donna Smith (who admits to having this bug for 15 years, and to deliberately passing it on to others)

There is one bug we see emerge every year with the warmer weather - the tracking bug.

It affects both humans and canines. It can strike people of any age or gender.

Do you have the tracking bug? Here are some of the symptoms of the tracking bug in humans:

- Purchasing quantities of nylon cord, in a variety of colours, even though you have bags of rope in the basement, all tied in knots
- Driving endlessly around the countryside, measuring snowmelt on the fields
- Haunting lost and found bins and claiming stray leather gloves
- taking them home and adding them to yet another bag full of old, one-off gloves
- Hiding gloves around the house and running around like an idiot with a clicker, asking your dog to find them
- Walking through deep puddles in your outrageously expensive hiking boots, to see how waterproof they are
- Buying raingear, hats and t-shirts that match your rolls of flagging tape
- Filling the freezer with bags of boiled, chopped up chicken wieners
- A marked tendency to turn any conversation into one about fields, weather and the scent cones.

It is believed dogs all have the tracking bug, but their owners bring it to the surface. Symptoms in dogs are:

- Screaming in a vehicle while driving dirt roads
- Squirming uncontrollably as a harness is put on them
- Immediately sniffing the ground and pulling with determination once the harness is on
- Obsession with gloves

Unlike other bugs, this bug seems to build both physical strength and positively affect a dog's confidence. It can strike both puppies and senior dogs. Veterinarians can offer no cure for this bug, nor do they seem concerned about it. It does not seem to affect cats.

It should be noted that when the tracking bug strikes, humans are more noticeably in a daze and seem willing to turn control over to their dogs, while the dogs appear filled with joy and purpose, and are willing to take the lead. The tracking bug appears to be highly contagious, as people and dogs become affected after exposure to others with the bug. Those affected tend to be found in groups, often seen wandering oblivious to the weather, through fields, carrying their precious chicken wieners even in bear country. The dogs are always seen leading their dazed human charges to gloves that have been deliberately left in the field, hours before. Some of these groups have become organized enough to hold tests to find these lost gloves, and newly affected people actually volunteer to wander through fields for two days exposed to heat, rain and snow.

People with the tracking bug can often be found sitting in truck stops very early in the morning. They are easily spotted in their water-soaked clothes. They are usually covered in dirt, sunburned and plagued by mosquito bites.

If you see someone you suspect has been bitten by the tracking bug, stay clear, because once bitten, there is no cure. At our next meeting, some of our members who admit to having the tracking bug will discuss this affliction. If you have ever wondered what it is, and how to avoid it, please be sure to attend.

Beamer's AM. TDX

Yesterday at the tracking test sponsored by the Clumber Spaniel Club of America at their National Specialty held at Mingo Creek Park, Pittsburgh, PA, a breed first happened. Unless I have missed one, (and believe me I have been keeping track) <G>, my dog became the first Kuvasz to earn an AKC TDX title. To say I was overjoyed and excited is a bit of an understatement.

For many years I have enjoying tracking with my Kuvasz. My Minnie was the first Kuvasz to earn an AKC TD. She also came very close to passing a TDX test by failing at the last corner with only a very short last leg to go. Both of these tracks were in the same field in Mingo Creek Park. Josh, my next Kuvasz, was the second Kuvasz with an AKC TD. His TDX attempt at Mingo (again in the same field), ended when a full sized Army tank (yes you read that right), came along the park road as he was working. Unfortunately his track ran near the road just as the tank came rumbling through. Anyone think there is not some luck involved in tracking? I always train with distractions but this was one I had not anticipated. Josh, being a good guard dog, decided that I needed to be guarded more than he needed to track. Both Minnie and Josh did earn their CKC TDX on their first attempt.

Yesterday's weather was perfect for tracking. The fields were lush. I drew track two. When we got to our field, it was the same field that my prior dogs had tracked in. Off we went. Beamer was moving along at a brisk pace. Our track was interesting. Along the way, there was a very large arc. While this is not a problem for a dog, it does present a different "picture" to the handler. Beamer was working so around the arc we went. For those that are not familiar with Mingo, it is very hilly. We come from Buffalo where it is very flat so we do not have many opportunities to work on hills. On the legs going up the hill, I was trying to keep my breath while keeping up with Beamer's quick pace. I know that my breathing got a bit louder at times and hoped that this would not cause Beamer to look back at me. He just kept going. On the legs going down the hill, it was very slippery so I had to keep leaning back and slowing Beamer down so I would not fall. Again, this never bothered Beamer. He just kept pulling into his harness. Beamer kept following the track as it went into the woods. Unfortunately while we were in the woods, my jacket got caught on some vines. Beamer had to stop and wait for me to get myself untangled. Then we were off again. I was very pleased that all my pulling back on the line to slow Beamer down and his having to stop and wait in the woods, did not dampen his enthusiasm and motivation to keep working.

Out of the woods, then two turns and two legs later, Beamer indicated the last article. Performance training and trial-ing with a Kuvasz while sometimes frustrating, is always interesting. Words can not describe my elation or do justice to what this title means to me.

During my journey to this tracking title, several on the tracking list have offered encouragement and training sugges-tions. Your help has been much appreciated. Last Spring I attended an Urban Tracking workshop given by John and Darlene Barnard in Toronto. Several of their suggestions have proved to be very helpful in reaching our TDX goal. I would also like to say thanks to the Clumber Spaniel Club of America for opening their tracking test to all breeds. A space in a tracking trial is a terrible thing to waste.

I realize what I am going to write is not tracking related but since we get only a few opportunities to brag, that you will allow me to say the following about my dog. Beamer was just named the number two Kuvasz in breed for 2004 in Canada. (This is the same ranking he earned in 2003.) Since Beamer is always owner handled, this is also a special accomplishment. He has two legs toward his CD and two Novice Rally legs as well as assorted agility legs. He is also a TDI dog and visits a nursing home as well as group placing in the breed ring. Tomorrow we are on our way back to Pittsburgh to compete in agility trials. The journey with a Kuvasz to work in the various performance areas is always interesting. But by far, the most important title that Beamer holds is that of "my best buddy".

Photos are available at: <http://www.pbase.com/owahl/csca3>

Click on the individual photos to enlarge. Be sure to click on photo 42. You can see the yellow starting flag that marks the beginning of our track. In TDX, that is all you get. The dog must figure out which way and where the track goes. Notice Beamer's ears. He was moving so fast that his ears are flipped up. Along the way, the track layer drops articles which the dog must find. In photo 54 you can see Beamer after finding an article. Photo 55 shows us going into the woods and 56 coming out. If you click on several of the other photos, you can see me pulling back on the line to slow Beamer down as we are on legs going down the hill. Some of the photos show us with the two judges and the tracklayer. At the end of the photos, we are pictured with the HUGE green passing rosette.

Kathleen Dahmer & Beamer

Am/Can CH Brantwood's Harmony of Light Am TDX, Can TD, CL1-H, VC, TT, CHIC, CGC, TDI

Tracking Test Morning

Awaken to cold, dark skies
Drive into a winter sunrise
Fingers stiff with the cold; rocks in stomach
A smile from the judges; "Good luck!"
Trust your dog.
I watch him. Head down,
Doing what I never could.
The hills impossibly green
Dew balancing precariously on every blade
The sun sprinkling down through the fog...
Watch your dog.
We turn, the track comes into view;
I know he is right--
More right than I know how to be.
Some nibbles of the sweet grass --
for fuel or moisture?
He pulls into the harness, harder now
As we traverse the glistening hillside.
More turns, my body once tense,
begins to relax into a rhythm
We are dancing to the music of our bond--
Human and canine, older than memory
Trusting, moving forward as one
My heart swells to see him leading the way
Until he is down.
"What did you find?" I trill with joy!
He looks up at me as I approach, his eyes
like pools of warm chocolate.
And I know in that instance that he did it not just for me
But for the both of us.

-Suzanne Bria

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH A PUPPY

- Remove film from box and load camera
- Remove film box from puppy's mouth and throw in garbage
- Remove puppy from garbage and brush coffee grounds from muzzle
- Choose a suitable background for photo
- Mount camera on tripod and focus
- Find puppy and take dirty sock from mouth
- Place puppy in pre-focused spot and return to camera
- Forget about spot and crawl after puppy on knees
- Focus with one hand and fend off puppy with other hand
- Get tissue and clean nose print from lens
- Put cat outside and put peroxide on the scratch on puppy's nose
- Put magazines back on coffee table
- Try to get puppy's attention by squeaking toy over your head
- Replace your glasses and check camera for damage
- Jump up in time to grab puppy and say, "No, outside!"
- Call spouse to clean up mess
- Fix a drink
- Sit back in Lazy Boy with a stiff drink and resolve to teach puppy 'sit and 'stay' first thing in the morning

