



## Winter Club Get-Togethers

Jan – March 2013

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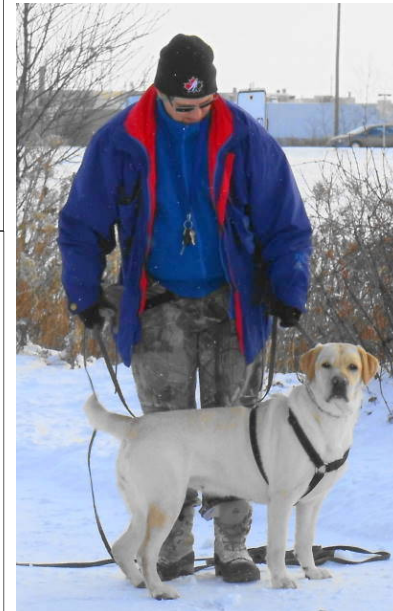
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## CCTC Members' Brags...



CH. Victorys Bean With The Devil W CD RE TDX AGIS AGIJS  
CPE Level 3 Standard  
"Dexter" earned his CPE Level 3 standard Feb. 10, 2013  
Owned by Eileen Fisher

Ch Winfree's Mr Grumpy Gill CD RN  
"Winston" earned his RN Jan. 13, 2013  
Owned by Wendy Downing



Holly CD N-CD N-TD N-UTD  
"Holly" earned her CKC CD Jan. 2013  
Owned by Ricki Abrams.

Ch. Sansouci's Gem North Of Forty-Nine, CD RN TD  
Am TD, FDJ, JH, NAVHDA NA Pz I  
"Emma" earned her CD Dec. 2, 2012 and her RN  
Feb. 10, 2013  
Owned by Laura Wright.

## A Tracking Escape To The Country

On a bright and sunny December day, Marie, Maryke and I were invited to the new home of CCTC members, Susan Rickwood and Marg Schneider. Their rural property is situated in Rockwood. We eagerly accepted the invitation as we wanted to see their property and to try some tracking there. Victoria Vidal-Ribas, a close friend and fellow CCTC member, was also visiting at the time with her Labs. They have re-designed a lovely open plan home, which overlooks a one acre field, backing onto fifty acres of bush. Though the snow was deep, the dogs all enjoyed their tracking session. After a wonderful lunch, we then took the dogs for a run around the outer edge of the field. A great time was had by all 2 and 4 legged creatures. Susan and Marg are willing to host a tracking fun day for CCTC members, later on in the year.

Eileen



## Nosework at the Tracking Field..... With Susan Skolnick



After Susan Skolnick, Eileen Fisher & Fay Meeson attended Nosework seminars, Susan brought four boxes and used winter green scent for the dogs to indicate. Members who came to track also got to try scent work. The dogs all caught on quickly on their first try and really enjoyed this new activity along with their handlers. They also did a search under the vehicles.



## New Little Trackers

**"Boomer"**  
Gardenpath's Archangel

Born Dec. 4, 2013

A new Std. Poodle puppy for Debbie



## CCTC Members' Brags...



DRAGNFLYTES DANCIN THROUGH LIFE, ADC, SGDC, RN  
"Sammy" earned his RN March 2013

Owned by Connie Gavin

## **Gone But Not Forgotten...**

**“Kavik”**

**Carmspack Kavik CD TDX UTD**

**Jan.21,2002 — Jan. 16, 2013**



Having decided to acquire a German Shepherd Dog, my friend Eunice and I set out to visit the Carmspack Kennels in Brooklin, which are owned by Carmen Duggan.

All the dogs are bred primarily for police work so are from strong, working lines. She had two litters of puppies all waiting eagerly for homes.

It is hard to try and make a choice when you are faced with fourteen bundles of energetic joy.

We liked Kavik because he came to us and made steady eye contact. Carmen tattooed his ear, covering it with the green dye to such an extent, I temporarily called him Spock!! His ears were completely erect at eight weeks and like his nature, never faltered.

He went through puppy classes and learned basic agility. He grew large and unfortunately took a dislike to most other dogs. This unfortunately, curtailed many of his activities. Though he got a CD, I didn't pursue trialing him further due to the close confines of the dog shows. This was unfortunate because he had mastered the skills of Open and Utility work. To allow him a healthy outlet, I took him to Schutzhund training, which he truly loved. He also excelled in all aspects of tracking. Funnily enough, he loved being around the kids in the family, who loved playing with him rather than the Dachshunds!! His great passion was retrieving balls from the water and he would play that game endlessly.

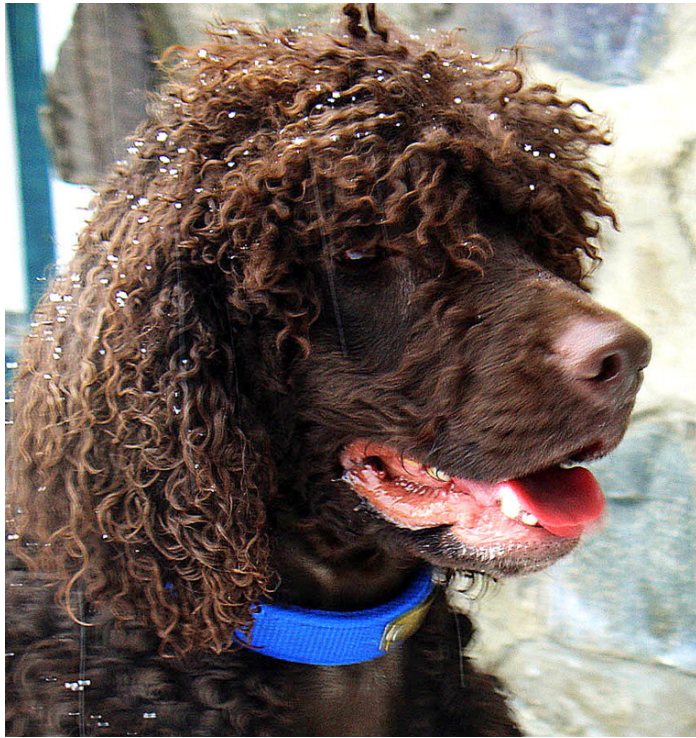
It was heart wrenching to see him succumb to degenerative muscle weakness which unfortunately can affect this noble breed. When frustration grew in him due to a progressive lack of mobility, I was thankful that I could at least set him free and preserve his dignity.

I want to express my thanks and gratitude to the following people who helped to enrich his life: Chris Rolox and the helpers from Gemini K9 Schutzhund.

The members of the Cross Country Tracking Club. His very special veterinarian, Carolyn Woodward, who tended to his needs right to the end. Kavik, by the way, is an Inuit word meaning Little Wolf Dog.

He will always have a very special place in my heart.

**Eileen Fisher**



## **Gone But Not Forgotten...**

**“Presto”**

**Madcap Alchemist’s True Magic, CGC, TDI, RN**

**May 13, 2005 – February 4, 2013**

**Loved by Susan Rickwood & Marg Schneider**

Presto bounded into our lives at 10 weeks of age and left us suddenly, a few months short of his eighth birthday. The word that best described him was exuberant. He simply did not walk, he ran everywhere with joy, slowing down only to swim or sleep. Teaching him to walk on a loose leash was a challenge, and our ultimate solution was to move to a 50 acre farm where he could run free. Even the loss of a back leg this past October, due to osteosarcoma did not slow him down.

Presto loved doing obedience work. He was heeling with Susan in our back yard two days ago. He happily attended obedience classes with Susan, was often a demo dog at North York Obedience Club and accompanied Susan to many seminars, and went for freestyle dancing lessons and tricks classes. Marg took him to tracking classes and met up with the Cross Country Tracking Club as often as work permitted, and tracked with him regularly at home. Marg also started him in agility at Camp Gone to the Dogs and we continued working with him on the agility course we built behind our house. Retrieving bumpers on land and water was as much a part of his life as breathing, and sneaking outdoor toys into the house and onto his bed, one of his hobbies. He especially enjoyed toys bigger than his head, and those with the most dirt or snow on them, had special appeal.

Presto’s forte was long walks with a toy always in his mouth. Although he ran back and forth, he stuck close and if he was out of sight he would come running back when he was called. This gave him and Marg both the freedom to spend many hours exploring our cedar forest – the smells, the rocks, the creek and the caves -- without any worry that he’d get lost. His boundless energy and need for exercise was a gift to Marg, who might otherwise have been unable to detach herself from working at the computer in order to enjoy some fresh air!

Two summers ago, when Talulla was still with us, we bought the dogs an above ground 33 foot swimming pool. Once he got the hang of using the stairs, with true Water Spaniel spirit, Presto retrieved toys endlessly. Last summer he was in the water almost every day, and sometimes all three of us would swim together. The first day that Presto was allowed off leash after his surgery he made a bee line for the pool, which fortunately had been covered for the season! This winter, once Presto had healed following his surgery, he swam at a local canine rehab center. It was the highlight of his week and ours as well! Presto had obviously never read the part of the old standard, where Irish Water Spaniels were said to be “Standoffish”. This word was simply not in his vocabulary. When people came to visit he ran to greet them and knew how to work the crowd for tummy rubs. “Nurse Presto,” as we sometimes called him, was also extraordinarily interested in everyone’s health. He was very curious about our cuts, bruises, aches and pains and he was often the first to identify any problem with either Talulla’s or Phoebe’s ears.

In mid-October, a few days after he began to limp, Presto was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma in his right hind leg. The damage to the bone was too extensive to try and save it, so it was amputated late in October. Although the surgery went as well as can be expected, he suffered a severe burn during the operation. This took over two months to heal and limited the choices for follow up treatment. Chemo was ruled out. We pursued a variety of natural therapies with vets known for their work with cancer, and we focussed on making every day count. This was, we have no doubt, despite our deep grief, the best choice for Presto. He liked each of the practitioners he saw, and stole their hearts with his resilience as a Tripawd dog.

We benefitted from the support of many people in our world of “dog people” and on this journey, met and became re-acquainted with individuals who had taken this journey with their dogs, and shared their hearts and resources in remarkable ways.

Presto’s presence filled our home and our hearts, and although we are grieving deeply, we promised him, and ourselves, to honour his memory in many ways... most of all by following his example and finding as much joy in life as he did.

## Gone But Not Forgotten.....

Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love, they depart to teach us about loss. A new dog never replaces an old dog; it merely expands the heart. If you have loved many dogs your heart is very big.



**“Henry”**

**Keybrooke's Prince Henry RE CD WC TDX UTD**

**May 6, 1998 - Jan. 10, 2012**

Henry was a real character and we miss him greatly. He was the first dog in Ontario and the first Lab in Canada to pass a UTD. He was a great dog to track with, easy to read because he was thoughtful and deliberate on his tracks. He clearly loved tracking very much, ignoring the final article so that he could continue tracking past it and complaining bitterly whenever I tracked his "sister", Solo.

Henry was a wonderfully original personality. He was the supreme extravert. He liked everybody; people and dogs. He was so patient with his bratty little "sister" Solo, with her three pups and with his naughty little "brother" Tenor. He was a thinker and a look-before-you-leap kind of guy. He was a joy to track behind and was the dog that really made me love tracking.

I am very grateful to Dr. Diane Corlett at Highway 24 for the acupuncture/laser treatments that kept him going for so long. I need to thank Sue Trout for the loan of 11 scatter mats that kept him mobile for the past two years and to Hilary Watson and her great book of recipes that kept him eating right to the end. He always perked up when he knew I was making "Homemade".

The house seems so empty now...

**Laura McKay**



## **FLOWER POWER Dog COOKIES**

The days are getting longer and warmer; the flowers are starting to bloom; Spring has sprung.

Celebrate the joy of the new season with these special cookies, infused with a healthy dose of sunflowers – how perfect !

- 1 cup oat flower
- 1 cup brown rice flower
- 1 cup hulled sunflower seeds (unsalted)
- 1/2 cup oat bran
- 1/2 cup honey
- 3 tbs. of applesauce or cook a small apple.
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup water

Preheat oven to 350\*. Combine all ingredients together and mix until dough forms. Roll out on a lightly floured surface to ¼" in thickness. Use a flower shaped cookie cutter (or a knife to cut into shapes). Place on an ungreased cookie sheet. They may be close together as they won't grow much while baking.

Bake 20 – 25 minutes. Let cool completely on a wire rack.  
Store the cookies in an airtight container in the fridge.

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### **Friday Night Tracking**

Some of our members have come out to the Sunday winter tracking get-togethers on good days and now it's time to switch back to Friday night tracking. Come join in with our group whenever possible.  
We meet at 5:30 – 6:00 on the south east corner of Markham Rd. & McNicoll in the back parking lot facing the hydro field behind the "Burgham" warehouse building.  
We share the field with everyone who comes out and so we do small tracks with our dogs and then enjoy going to Tim Horton's after tracking.  
It makes a nice outing with friends.

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### **New Club Member**

Connie Gavin [conniegavin@hotmail.com](mailto:conniegavin@hotmail.com) Field Spaniel

# Annual General Meeting & Christmas Party



## Try Tracking!

I have some questions for you:

Do you love to get out and enjoy the outdoors with your dog?

Are you interested in a low-impact dog activity that is easy and fun?

Looking for something for your retired show dog? Old dog? Slow dog?

Looking for a beginners title in another venue for your versatility points?

Like that natural, performance-oriented stuff – but you're not into herding or hunting sports?

Enjoy camaraderie and good times with like-minded people?

Want to do something your dog will LOVE?

If you answered YES to these questions, Tracking is the sport for you!

Yes, I said tracking. That thing where you follow your dog and he pulls you along finding stuff on the ground. Granted, it is not the most exciting spectator sport, but I guarantee that the day YOUR dog pulls you along to an article at the end of a track – you will weep as if you have just gone Best in Show.

I've been there. In the late 90s my veteran GSD Robin went BIS AND earned her TDX within a year of each other. I still can't tell you which moment made me more proud. Going BIS was a thrill, but so was the moment Robin pulled me in and out of a grove of poplars, then stopped at a small leather glove and looked back at me with a wink and a wag.

Talk to any tracker about their dog's titles and they will choke up when they start to talk about their dog finding that last glove on a track. It is a unique and mystical experience that creates an incredible bond of trust and teamwork.

You can experience this too. There is no mystery to tracking and all dogs love it. NO – you don't have to be an athletic hiker who can run over hill and dale. Tracking is a walking sport. Dogs should proceed at a pace where you can keep up. If they run, they could overshoot turns or miss articles. CKC tracking is NOT Search and Rescue, where a dog lifts its head and runs to find the hottest cone of victim's scent to save a life. CKC tracking IS a sport that demonstrates this ability and willingness of the dogs – from toy poodles to Great Danes.

And camaraderie? Tracking is a pass/fail sport. One pass, and you have your title. Everyone roots for each other, we lay tracks for each other, and we have a big cheer and group hug for every dog that gets to the last article. I have rarely experienced a dog sport where people display such genuine care and appreciation for each other with competition removed from the equation.

Perhaps you are a breeder. You know that all puppies are born with amazing noses and finding their way to mother's milk is their first instinctive behaviour. In tracking, we do not teach a dog how to track...they know how to track. All we do is channel that strong drive to use their nose, by motivating them to follow tracks on command.

Not a breeder? Then I am sure you can relate to this. You are driving somewhere and have two dogs in your car. You stop to give them a rest break. First, you take one dog out and give him a little walk along a boulevard, across a parking lot and back up a gravel path to your car. What happens when you take out dog number two? She puts her nose down and PULLS you along the exact path that you followed, to see just where you went and what you did. That's tracking! So, you don't have a field to train in? Well things have changed a lot in the last decade of tracking. You have probably heard of urban tracking. If not, it is that thing where your dog pulls you along to find articles, but you are on a college campus, in an industrial park or at a government complex. Rather than being in a hayfield, you can train in a park right near downtown! There is no excuse anymore for anyone – tracking can be taught nearly anywhere and this new realization has opened a whole new world up to people who thought they had to have a farmer friend with land. As a result tracking has increased in popularity in recent years.

I now start all of my pups on all surfaces, now that the CKC has added urban tracking titles and a Tracking Championship to the roster. The same way you obedience folks eye up that future Utility title...we trackers are eyeing up our Urban Tracking Dog Excellent title when we take that 12 week old pup out and lay a track laced with treats for him to follow. I recently worked with a 12 week old puppy doing three sets of "scent pads." While I held him, his owner tramped down a one-meter square area. He was taken to the first one, and by finding the yummy bait he made an association with finding treats and inhaling scent. By the third one, he was screaming to get to that scent pad!

There are a lot of methods to train a tracking dog – but all share similar foundations. We motivate our dogs through food drive to associate treats with scent. Before you know it, dogs are willingly following footsteps where they find scent.

And that is about all there is to getting a dog started. Use great treats that are smelly, small and soft in the beginning. Eventually the treats are faded but still offered at random intervals to keep your dog's motivation strong. The treats act like a "click" to the dog – and soon your dog will realize that if he follows your footsteps, he will find rewards.

Tracking is something you can do with puppies, to imprint the desire in them, and to build a relationship in a positive way while they are too young for other things. It is also a great activity for older dogs and dogs who can't do the demanding physical sports.

Tracking comes naturally to all dogs as the nose is their focus. When we teach dogs – we are really shaping their behaviour so we can partner up with them and compete in tests. We need to read our dog's body language on blind tracks meaning we do not know where they go! This is a sport where partnership and trust is crucial. Once you find that partnership with a dog, the feeling is so rewarding!

Of course, you need to use some survey stakes (cheap from hardware stores!) and make a little map, to know where you walked. Believe it or not, one of my biggest challenges when teaching tracking classes or giving clinics is teaching the handlers how to walk in a straight line! If you can master that, and know where your treats are, you are on your way to having a TD Title. Sure, there is a bit more to it, such as aging the track, adding turns, making it longer and teaching your dog that the article is a very important thing.

In a TD test, here's what happens. You will draw your track in the morning. Let's say there are 5 tracks, and you draw track number 3. While you are still in the coffee shop at the track draw, a volunteer is out laying a track that was plotted ahead of time with the judge. The track will be between 400 – 450 meters and have a minimum of three turns. You will follow a caravan of cars to the track, and will see your start and the direction of your first leg marked with stakes. At this point your track is usually around 30 minutes old but could be up to two hours old. That's ok, because you have trained and prepared for this as diligently as any Olympic athlete!

You follow your routine, say all the verbal cues, harness your dog, and approach the start. By this point you will feel that your dog is ready to go! This is the magical part. After that second stake, it just looks like an empty field. But your dog will have her nose down and she will pull you along. She will suddenly make a little circle, and turn right. Another turn to the left. You will be in the zone and not even notice the judge and tracklayer behind you in the distance. Another turn and your dog is just motoring.

You start to feel a lump in your throat because you know you are near the end. Suddenly, your dog stops! She noses something! She paws it. She cocks an ear. She lies down. However she indicates that article is between you and her – but you know it's a glove. Running up you see it, and the tears start to flow. PASS! In the distance the judge is giving a thumbs up to the crowd on the road, and a cheer goes up. You will never forget that moment.

And guess what – suddenly, tracking is no longer that boring thing where people go out in the rain or wake up early on weekends. Suddenly it is the best thing you ever did with a dog. YOUR dog is a tracking dog. You are hooked. And the good news is, after TD you can keep going on to the more advanced titles including Tracking Champion if your dog earns all four titles in Canada!

CKC tracking is not as strict as IPO tracking (formerly known as Schutzhund). And it does not focus on the dog running and air scenting, as many Search and Rescue dogs will often track – getting to a victim as quickly as possible. In CKC tracking each level has specific requirements in terms of the number of turns and articles, the length, the age of the track and the surface. There is no time limit if a dog is working, and dogs are allowed to do some problem solving as long as they do not go too far off track.

There is a lot of room for more tracking dogs, and it is a growing sport now that we realize dogs can track on all surfaces – even though the titles start in the field. There are classes and instructors and resource people across Canada to help you. The best place to find them is to join the ckc-tracking chat group on Yahoo, introduce yourself and say where you live. You'll get a great welcome and find out where tests and classes are, so you can learn more about the sport. There are many good books out there too, if you don't live near any classes being offered. Volunteering as a tracklayer is a great way to learn too, and we all take our turns since tracking is usually a limited entry activity due to the space it requires for tests.

We continue to learn more about working with our amazing partners, whose noses are so powerful that they have not been able to invent anything yet that replaces a well-trained tracking dog. I hope this gives you a new perspective on tracking. There is no great mystery to training a tracking dog. Perhaps the best kept secret about tracking is how rewarding it can be, for all people and every dog. I urge you to consider taking it up and finding a new way to enjoy your journey with your companions.

Donna Brinkworth  
Spiritdance Tracking  
Red Deer, Alberta

(formerly from Thunder Bay Ontario)

*Donna has been a tracking instructor and clinician since 1995 and is a CKC tracking judge. Originally from Thunder Bay Ontario, she currently resides in Alberta. Her Rough Collies, German Shepherds and Border Collies have earned 8 TDs, 5 TDXs and two UTDs and one UTDX on her Tracking Champion Border Collie TCH Alta Pete Jet TDX UTDX. You are welcome to visit Donna's Facebook Tracking Page called 'Your Tracking Coach.'*

*\*An earlier version of the article appeared in Canadian Dog Digest in 2010.*