



FALL 2004

President: Marie-P Babin

autumwynd@sympatico.ca

Vice-President: Eileen Fisher

eileenfi@sympatico.ca

Secretary: Maryke Wawick
maryke5024@rogers.com

Treasurer: Bev Wiggans

Bwiggans@sympatico.ca

Social: Dorothy Phillips

db.phillips@sympatico.ca

Equipment: Mel Babin

Newsletter Editors:

Maryke Warwick
Marie-P.Babin



Friday Night Trackers

Hope everyone has had a great summer as the weather has been cooler than other years for tracking and other sports that members take part in.

Our Friday evening get-togethers have been great. We've had a pretty good turn out. We've had new members come out and track with us.

We've found a great coffee shop for after tracking refreshments that has monster apple fritters and the owner bakes them fresh for us every Friday. Come and join us when you can.

The October tracking test was filled in two days which means that we'll be needing track layers. If you're available, on Oct. 16th/17th, please let us know and come out to help. It's appreciated !

The November TDX test will be held on Nov. 21st. Get your TDX dogs ready. Entries will be accepted from October 7th and will close on Oct. 28th.

Again, track layers will be needed on Nov. 20th /21st.

The NAMBR TD test will be held on Nov. 28th. If you're interested in entering this test, contact Sue Godbehere at suegodbehere@hotmail.com

After our tests, we have a "Pot Luck" provided by our generous Club members. As we are catering for participants, friends and fellow Club members, it is vital that we get as many dishes as possible.

We've been told it's one of the best Pot Lucks ever at tracking tests.

The rosettes are then presented to the qualifiers.

We also present the farmer who allows us to use his fields, a gift of appreciation.

Marie-P Babin (Club Pres)

Members' News

Wishing Candy Rennie a speedy recovery from her recent operation. She is now home from the hospital and gradually regaining her strength. Jackie Meharg is keeping up the tracking practices with Candy's dog "Salem"

We'd like to send our condolences to Jackie Meharg whose father John (Jack) Meharg passed away on Sept. 9th.

BRAGS

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the drought is over - we're finally back in the ribbons again :-) Presenting Treasurehunt Labradors **FIRST** title on a home-bred dog:

Treasurehunt's Electric Trill, WC (Ch. Jerryru's Rise 'N Shine X Inlyn Pegg's Mountain Treasure, WC)

Trill passed her **WC** on Sept 10th at the Working Certificate Test held by the Golden Retriever Club of Greater Toronto, held at Luther Marsh under judges Bruce Russell and Michele Rebelo.



“Treasure” Inlyn Pegg's Mountain Treasure, WC - (Inlyn's Eden X Rose-crest Inlyn Laura Lee) give me a NICE birthday present today Sept 12th - she passed her first leg of her Junior Hunter at Luther Marsh under judges Gina Luloff & Lorraine Hare. There's no better way to spend your birthday than in the field on a beautiful late summer day.

Peggy Masanotti
Treasurehunt Labradors Reg'd

Victory's Mackenzie CDX AGX SADC Am.CDX “Kennie” (Std. Wire-haired Dachshund) owned by **Eileen Fisher** earned her **AGX** at the Grey Bruce Dog show Aug.3rd and then placed 7th out of 19 mini veterans at the National in Quebec in August. Also at the Nationals Kennie placed 4th in Gamblers.

CH. Toraq's Moonlight'n Shadows CD AGN TD SADC “Tango” (Portuguese Water Dog) owned by **Anne Passafiume** earned a **SADC** this summer.

CH Kewbeach Dancing up a Storm “Samba” also owned by Anne Passafiume earned his Junior Water Dog on Aug 21st.

CH. Castlegar Marlo At Autumwynd CD WC JH CGN Am. CD “Marlo” (Labrador Ret.) owned by **Marie-P.Babin** earned her **Championship** and four **Best Opposite Sex** at the Kawartha show in July and then at the TRIO show in August she earned her **CGN** title and a **Best Of Breed**.

CH. Castlegar Elliott CD WC JH TD Am.CD “Elliott” (Labrador Ret.) owned by **Maryke Warwick**, had a great week-end at the Kawartha show in July when he won four **Best Of Breed**, a **Group 4th** and a **Group 1st !!!**

Braggs from Susan Coutts:

"I'm very proud of three of my tracking students who earned their **TRACKING DOG Titles** on August 29th at the EPS Trial in Powassan. (Plus one who was a hair's breath away from earning her TDX!) The thrill of watching them complete their tracks and find their articles was as wonderful as being successful with my own dogs!" **1- Corhampton Blonde Beauty** Labrador Retriever (yellow) owned by **Nancy Desmond**

2- Wimberway's Watch For It CD WCX JH Labrador Retriever (black) owned by **Beryl Proctor**

3- O'Grady's Northern Ranger Australian Shepherd owned by **Wade Murrant** and **Tracey Snarr**
Ranger was handled by Wade Murrant.

Jess, a blue merle sheltie, who came to us just over 4 months ago from a puppy mill/backyard breeder situation is now a **THERAPY DOG**, joining Storm and Diva on our weekly visits to a local nursing home. Jess acted like she'd done this all her life, just as she's taken everything else in stride, full of fun and confidence.

Jess is almost 10 and had done nothing all her life but have puppies; she didn't even know her name. We are so pleased to have her in our lives.

Susan Coutts



Remember to send your **brags** and **news** to the Newsletter editors . Someone must have some High in Trials, Show results, Working results like in herding, drafting, Field work, Agility, Fly-ball, ect....
If you don't we'll have to put lots of pictures of our own dogs...
Ha Ha Ha !!!



Marlo



Elliott

Tracking in Australia by Ruth Brooks

After the Urban Tracking seminar, Laura Wright sent a post to her breed email list telling them about it and encouraging trackers to learn more about urban/VST work. Someone from Australia wrote to her, asking if she'd write an article about the seminar for their tracking newsletter (they are contemplating introducing urban titles in Australia). Laura said sure, if you'll write me an article on tracking in Australia! So she did!

It is interesting to learn about the differences in dog sports in other countries.

~~~~~

Australian dogs can earn 3 tracking titles: Tracking Dog (TD), Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) and Tracking Champion (Ch). To earn their TD they must pass two separate tracks: Track 1 and Track 2. TDX is another 3 tracks: Tracks 3, 4 and 5. Tracking champion is only one track – Track 6. Before a dog is eligible for a Track 1 it must pass a Test Track. Each track except Track 6 starts with a flag and a tracklayer's sock. Turns are generally not more than 90 degrees except in Track 6. The tracklayer always stays at the end of the track and must be found by the dog. This will not be necessary when a rule change comes in next year. Tracks are judged by one judge who gives each dog's performance a rating of Fail, Pass, Good, Very Good or Excellent.

The Test Track is 300 metres long with one turn. It's aged up to 30 minutes. The tracklayer may be known to the dog in the Test Track and Track 1. The Test Track is only marked Pass or Fail.

Track 1 is 800 metres long and has 2 turns. It's aged from 30 minutes to 60 minutes and has two articles (tracklayer's socks) placed on the track at places specified by the judge. The dog must find at least one article in order to pass. Track 2 is the same except the tracklayer must be 'unknown'. That means in practice that the tracklayer has not laid a track for that dog in the previous 6 months. The handler is not told who the tracklayer is. Tracks 3 to 6 have unknown tracklayers.

Track 3 is 1000 metres with 4 turns and 2 articles. It's aged from one to two hours. Track 4 is the same except the track must be crossed by a known person at a place specified by the judge. Track 5 is 1200 metres long with 5 turns and 3 articles. The dog must find at least two articles to pass. The track is crossed twice by an unknown person. This track is aged for between one and three hours.

Track 6 is also 1200 metres long with 3 articles and 2 crosstracks but has at least 6 turns and two of them must be acute. The track is aged from 90 to 180 minutes. The dog must first find the start which is between 2 flags 20 metres apart. The judge gives a sock belonging to the tracklayer to the handler 30 metres from the start line.

To determine how many tracks a judge may judge in a day tracks are given a numerical value TD = 2, TDX and Ch = 3. A judge may judge a maximum of 27 points but, in fact, track numbers are usually dictated by the amount of ground available. There are often more entries than tracks available and, if necessary, the club holds a ballot. The nature of the ballot depends on the club but club members are usually given preference. Our tracking season runs from April to September and during that time there are about 30 tracking trials in my state, most within 2 or 3 hours from Sydney. Some of those trials are breed (or at least group) specific. Entry fees are about \$20 regardless of track entered. Most clubs use local judges so costs are kept to a minimum.

Tracking in our state is threatened by lack of grounds within reasonable traveling distance of Sydney. One club has had to cancel its trial this year and the grounds presently used by most clubs are earmarked for development. Some of the keen trackers are beginning to wonder about urban tracking since it looks like footpaths will be around for a while.

by Ruth Brooks



## KENNIE AT THE NATIONAL AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004

After managing to get a qualifying score of 320 points at the Ontario Regionals, we decided to go for it and enter the National Agility Championships in Montreal. This was the largest agility event by far that we had taken part in. There were over 500 dogs competing from every province and territory.

When we received our entry package, we saw that there were to be 6 groups of dogs competing in 6 rings, on a continuous basis. We were in Group A2 which was comprised of many of the veteran classes. To compete as a veteran the dog has to be over 7 years old. The advantage of competing as a veteran is that you get more time to complete the runs. As I need that time, and Kennie is 7 ½ she competes as a veteran!

Helena, my English Cocker friend, and I arrived at the site on the Friday. The competition was held on the campus of the John Abbot College in Ste Anne De Bellville. This is on the west side on the Isle De Montreal.

We had all entered warm up games that day. This was an appropriate activity as it was cool and pouring rain!! The games involved basically weaves and contacts. Kennie used it as a chance to check out the smells in the grass, that only a Dachshund nose could detect!!!

That evening we all marched into the grounds behind our Provincial flags. The event strangely coincided with the opening ceremonies in Athens.

On Saturday the competition began in earnest. All competitors walked the courses from 6:30am to 7:30am. That in itself was a hectic experience, as people were debating strategies in English and French at every complex part of each course.

Every day we completed 3 courses at the master's level. Kennie is not even at the master's level in the Standard runs yet! The scores for all 3 were totaled up and the standings for the Saturday were duly announced.

Kennie managed to be 4<sup>th</sup> in mini-veterans Gamblers. She was awarded a Nationals rosette for that placing.

The following day, the process was repeated and then everyone's aggregate scores for the weekend were totaled.

During our Standard run, the "Top Dogs" television crew was filming on the course. This was interesting because as well as 3 cameras outside the ring, there was a camera at a jump stand and one inside a tunnel. I just hoped Kennie wouldn't emerge from the tunnel with the camera, thinking it was a weird type of rat!!!

Fortunately we did the run without incident and had a perfect score.

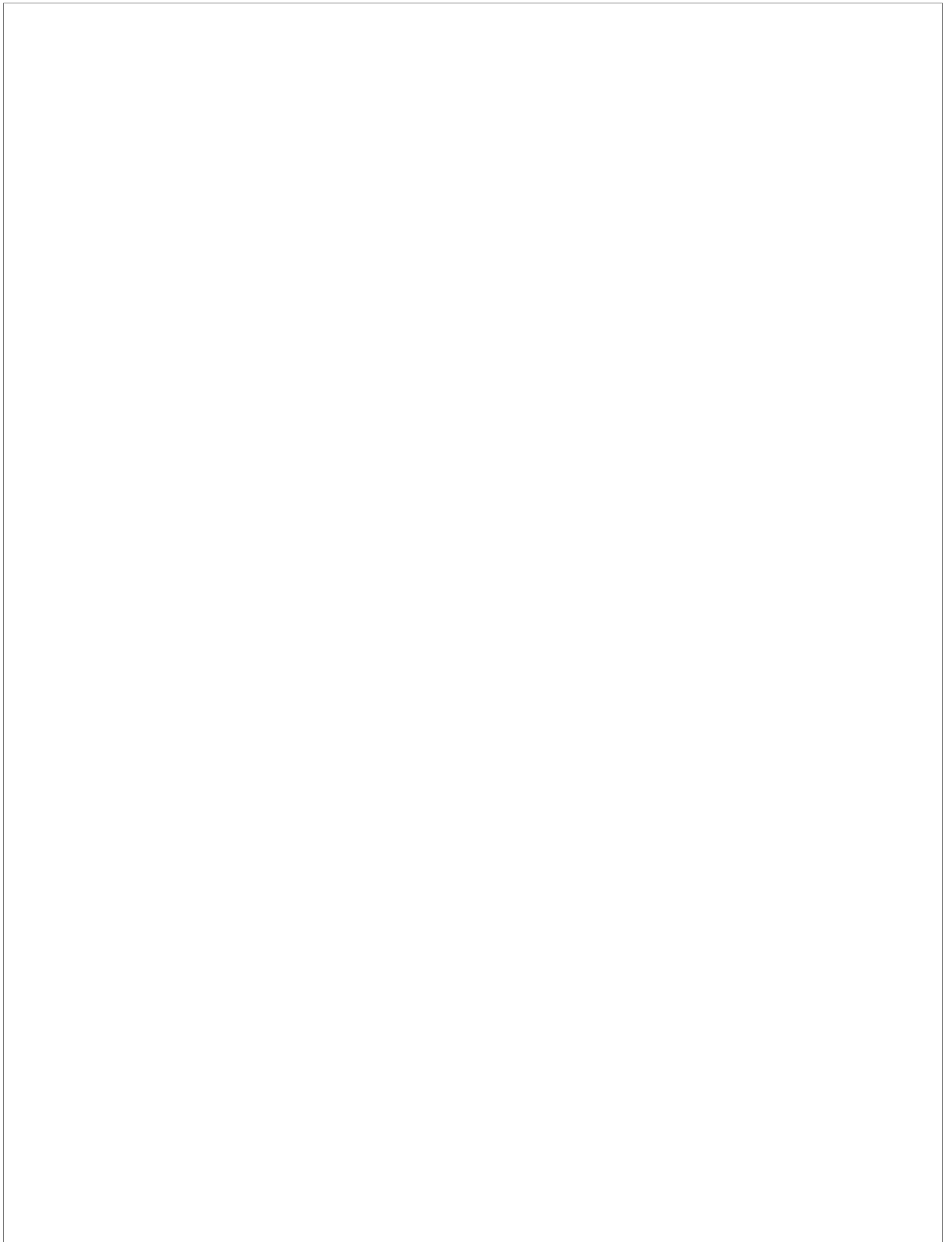
Kennie ended up with 389.24 points, which was an improvement on the score she got in the Regionals.

In the mini-vets division, she was 7<sup>th</sup> out of 19 competitors.

Looking back over the weekend it was a great experience for both of us. I would love to go again next year when it will be held in Saskatoon.

Eileen and Kennie (August 2004)





---

***“Cheese Cookies for the tracking dog extraordinaire”***

3 cups unbleached white flour  
2 cups grated cheddar cheese  
3 cloves minced garlic  
1/3 cup vegetable oil  
5 tbsp hot water or chicken broth

Mix all ingredients together. You may have to add more water or broth to reach desired consistency for rolling.

Roll out to desired shapes and bake at 400 F for 10-15 minutes.

Your dogs will thank you with a big sloppy kiss !

---

***“Ear cleaner for the tracking dog”***

4 oz. *Isopropyl alcohol*  
2 *tbsp boric acid (in powder)*  
1 *tbsp glycerin*

Shake well.

Keep this mixture in a plastic bottle. Once a week, put 8-10 drops of this liquid in each ear.

Rub the ear canal. Clean the dirt out with a cotton ball.

---

**New Members**

Pamela Burns  
10 Tupper St. Box 203  
Millbrook Ontario  
L0A 1G0  
705-932-1949  
Psquared@nexicom.net

Ruth Longfield  
899 Srigley St.  
Newmarket Ontario  
L3Y 1Y2  
905-898-2702  
rmlongfield@sympatico.ca

Joanne & Keith Harburn  
19 Kensington Ave  
Toronto Ontario  
M5T 2J8  
416-593-9552  
vicky@halhinet.on.ca

## A PERFECT TRACKING DAY WITH A PERFECT TRACKING DOG!

I guess this short story could be considered a bit of a "living tribute" to Spook.

Some of you may remember her when she earned her TDX in 2000 in what became jokingly known as the CCTC "shitzhund field" - the owner having put fresh manure in the main part of the field the week before the test took place. I believe this was a surprise to everyone, and certainly was not planned (at least I don't THINK it was!!!!)

Spook has turned ten this year, and does not get many opportunities to go tracking now, as she has arthritis in her spine, making her hind legs a little wobbly and weak. This is a heartbreaker, as she loves tracking like nothing else, and I know I'll never have another dog, or best friend, quite like her.

Spook is still my demo. dog and I've wanted to videotape her for some time, to use the video in my seminars, and also as a memory keepsake. A couple of years ago, I had an eye condition where I was more or less blind for a period of time. I did a one-day seminar during this time, including a track with Spook, with my eyes closed for the complete track.



Although I tripped a few times, she took me through the track perfectly and most people watching didn't know until we finished, having found the final article, that my eyes were shut. I certainly was relieved we had accomplished this, and you can imagine how surprised the spectators were. I learned a long time ago to trust her totally.

So, this perfect day came along earlier this year and a friend was coming to video us as well as taking over thirty pictures which we put on a CD. EVERY day is a good tracking day, but some days just reach out and pull you out to the fields. This day the wind was whispering to Spook...come and play.

Because of Spooks' arthritis, I do tracks for her somewhere between TD and TDX. The length is about 2/3 TDX, she does not have any difficult obstacles, pretty flat land, perhaps just various changes of cover, road crossings, forested areas, and it is usually about 2 hrs. old. Corners may be from 4 to 8, and articles usually 3. I have to give her lots of interest, as she tries to move out so quickly and I need to keep her slow and steady.

I had laid the track for her in our front fields, about 7 a.m. in a lovely mist and total silence. There were fresh deer tracks in two areas, with what deer leave behind as well, (bonus-Spook loves deer poo!) a groundhog hole and quite rare for us, and unexpected, while the track was aging, two noisy sandhill cranes landed near the second corner, walking all over the second and third legs of the track. I had heard the noise and just looked out the window at the right time to see them land, while I was waiting for the track to age and my friend to arrive. I was quite curious to see what she would do when we got to this area.

We got ready to go out at the arranged time (which is a big feat as I have 3 other dogs tracking that just know exactly what we're up to and are scrambling to get out the door to go as well!) and Spook could hardly contain herself as we headed out to the start.

This is when I forget Spook is 10, with a physical problem, and she obviously does as well.





Nose down all the way, except when she looks around at me to "get a move on". Much to my surprise, she showed almost no interest at all when we covered the sandhill crane area



As usual, nothing caused her any concern, she downed on all 3 articles, started right up again, loves going through the high grass/weeds and trees





Spook works close to the track, but often circles and double-checks her corners before her quick head jerk and pull onto the new leg. She's very track-sure, picking up speed as we go. It's such a thrill to be behind a dog working like this, just to see her total enjoyment of following her track.



Her reward is finding the final article and having a real tug-of-war with me over the article.



I don't throw it more than once now, as I don't want her running and jumping for it, but she loves to almost rip my arm off as we walk along with it between us, me laughing at her joy with sparkling eyes and wagging tail. There is nothing better in life for me than tracking with my best bud, Spook, in great fields, on a clean, fresh day!

Susan and Spook (Markgrafler Pali CD, TDX, CGC, St.John Amb.Ther.Dog)