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Maryke Warwick and
Marie-P.Babin

CCTC WEB SITE

We are very pleased to announce that Shelley Empey has offered to update the web site for us !!

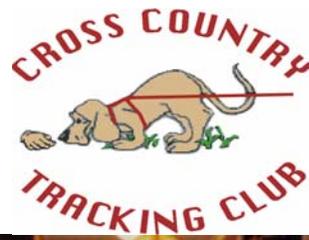
We will have pictures of the new Club wear on it soon so that anyone can order waterproof coats, shirts and caps with the new Logo on them.

Track layers will be needed on May 10th and 11th for the TD test.

As many of our regular track layers are hoping to enter this test, we need new volunteers to help out.

On Saturday, after plotting the tracks, track layers can enjoy discussing tracking issues with our judge Sharon Smith and her husband Terry both of whom have vast experience in a variety of dog sports. You'll also enjoy lunch at the local fish & Chip restaurant paid by the Club.

It's not necessary to have had a lot of experience in track laying. You'll have plenty of help and guidance in track laying from the more experienced members and the Judges.



"Photo taken at the Christmas Party"

L to R Back row standing Bev.W. Frank.D. Lia.M. Marie-P.B. Elaine.G. Maryke.W.
Middle row sitting; Sue.G. Dorothy.P. Anne.P. Eileen.F. Winnie.K.
Front row: Peggy.M. Kavik Irene.M.

On December 13th we had our Christmas Party and General meeting. We arrived at Eileen's home to find a string of lights across the lawn along with tracking poles to find at the end the article.

We had 13 people show up and had a great time. We did our socializing food and drinks then got the meeting started. We had one guest, Lia's brother Neil from Edmonton Alta.

After the meeting, Elaine brought out the new CCTC clothing line which includes a green waterproof jacket with or without liners, polo shirts and caps with the new logo on them. We took turns on getting measured for sizing, with great hilarity as reality struck home for most of us as to our real size. Elaine showed great patience and understanding while we placed our order.



Story Sharing ; Brags.

ELLIOTT & MARLO'S 2nd BIRTHDAY

These littermates owned by Maryke Warwick & Marie-P Babin turned "2" on Feb. 18th, 2003. They had a great time playing together and received new toys, cookies and rawhides for their presents



NEW PUPPY "ROCKY"

There's a new puppy at the Downs residence. His name is Rocky and he's 6 months old. He's a German Shepherd Dog.

The plans are in for some obedience classes, and Frank will have him out tracking as soon as the weather warms up a bit.



NEW CHESSIE "VELVET"

Diann McHale added a new Chesapeake Bay Retriever to her K-9 family. She is a new sister for Brandy and Hawkeye.



NEW PUPPY "KNICKERS"

Sue Godbehere has a new canine addition to her family. She's a Jack Russell Terrier named Knickers. She has joined the pack with Bear and Milo the Shepherd mixes.



TREASUREHUNT PUPPIES

Peggy Masanotti is very happy to announce the arrival of her much anticipated premiere litter of "Treasurehunt" Labradors. They have arrived safe and sound!

4 yellow girls and 3 yellow boys born for Valentines.
Sire: CH Jerryru's Rise 'N Shine
Dam: Inlyn Pegg's Mountain Treasure WC



NEW PUPPY AT THE WIGGANS HOME

Carmspack Comox born Nov. 29 2003 is a German Shepherd Dog and is 14 weeks old in the picture. The plan is that he'll be a Schutzhund Dog some day like his new big brother Griff.



The Handler's Handler

By Larry Lykowski Submitted by Laura Wright

Tracking tests and titles are not familiar ground to most members of the Vizsla Club of Illinois. From what I've seen the dog/handler relationship is completely different from what most of you are used to seeing in field trials and hunt tests. That's why we in tracking have developed the term "handler's handler". That's what I am. The handler handles the dog, and I handle the dog's handler.

I generally begin gearing up for a tracking test right after receiving the notice that the dog is either in the test or is anything above 16th alternate. After receiving the notice, the dog's handler can be expected to begin the plaintive "call of the tracking handler", which is some variation of, "There's no way we can be ready in 3 weeks". My practiced responses include, "The Great Pyramid of Giza was built in 3 weeks"; or, "We were engaged for three weeks"; or my favourite, "This is a Busch Vizsla - she was born ready".

At 1 week before the test the dog handler typically begins worrying about test day weather. The handler's handler's best response is to monitor the Weather Channel on a 20-minute basis and point out that the long range forecast is favourable. As the test date draws closer and the forecast is for thunderstorms and tornadoes, I point out that WGN's very own Tom Skilling says that the European computer model calls for fair skies, pleasant cool temperatures, and calm winds (not mentioning that this is the forecast for Gotteborg, Sweden).

But the handler's handler really earns his dough beginning the night before the test. By this time, despite the fact that the dog is sacked out on the couch oblivious to The Big Day, the handler is frequently somewhere between high-strung and panic-stricken. Innocuous inquiry such as, "Honey, have you seen my argyle socks?" can be met with a withering gaze and a reply of "It's always all about you". Twenty-two years of cohabitation and trust are temporarily forgotten, and my partner in marital bliss has been transformed into the Bride of Frankenstein, capable only of twitching spasmodically and periodically uttering "EEEEEE!". I seriously consider the surreptitious administration of tranquilisers, but chanting the mantra "That would be wrong", I prudently decide only to substitute decaf for regular grind. We turn in for the night, and for the next two hours I'm sleeping next to Mike Tyson, until the handler's fitful flailing and tossing drives me to the couch (where I sleep, quite soundly, with the dog).

At 2:39 a.m. I am awakened by the sound of the car door slamming. The handler, who packed the car four days ago, is rechecking equipment.

The morning of The Big Day arrives. I rise early to prepare a hearty breakfast for the handler. The handler's food sits uneaten ("I can't eat anything. Do you want me to throw up?"). The Weather Channel is now calling for fair skies, pleasant cool temperatures, and a calm wind, but the handler's new concern is that the sunny skies will evaporate the dew and later tracks won't hold scent. I am personally grateful that we won't face thunderstorms and tornadoes, remembering the fate of two legendary TD tracking entrants, Dorothy and Toto.

The drive to the test site is uneventful as the handler's handler plays Brahm's on the car stereo. It seems to have an effect on the dog, but the handler is now oblivious to audio stimulation, and has apparently either achieved total unconsciousness or become catatonic.

At the test site, Death Valley National Monument, the dogs, the handlers, the handler's handlers, and other officials have assembled. My handler naturally draws track #8 (out of 8), and we know we will spend the

next two and a half hours nervously awaiting our fate. Members of the sponsoring club have laid out a brunch, and to the handler's handler falls the task of sampling everything. It's daunting, but not unattainable if one follows the prime directive - pace yourself. But someone has brought a box of Krispy Kremes and I, for a fleeting instant, am left alone with them. Ten minutes later I am laying in the car, moaning. To a lesser handler's handler, this could have been a fatal error, but I force myself to walk laps around the parking lot and my colour gradually changes from green, to yellow, to pink. Seasoned pro that I am, I'm back in the game.

The tracking test itself is anti-climatic. The handler tells the judge that the test will be over in five minutes one way or another, and she's right. The handler's pre-test jitters apparently disappear, and she and the dog become one. The dog becomes an amber-collared blur and smokes the track in 4 minutes. The only glitch occurs during the last few feet of the track when the dog inadvertently startles, and flushes, *a bird*. Vizsla instinct takes over and the dog forgets the track and focuses on the bird. The handler, in a prescient moment, falls to her hands and knees and goes on point. The dog is shocked back to reality by the unexpected turn of events and finishes the track successfully. The handler's handler is momentarily concerned that a disqualification may have occurred, but realizes the judges, fatigued after 7 previous tests, were lagging behind and didn't witness the handler-on-point. The moment passes as the judges have already left the field in favour of the buffet table. We passed.

Epilogue

The events depicted in this article are fictional (mostly), and any resemblance between the characters and any living person or dog is coincidental, and will hopefully not affect my marriage. My wife Cheryl and our dogs, Simply Irresistible Zayda JH TD, and Zigfrid's Got 'Em Seeing Red TD JH, are great tracking teams and a credit to VCOI versatility. The handler's handler (yours truly) is in training for TDX competition in the fall, and has fully recovered from his encounter with the box of Krispy Kremes.

Grievance Notification to Management

From: Union of Faithful Trackers, Canine Division
Brothers Kavik and Montana

To: The Management, Lunatic Humans Division

Date: February 16th, 2003 (3rd Sunday of the Month)

Place: Weiner Harvesting Fields, Markham and McNicol Rds.

Grievable Occurrence:

We hereby testify that, unbelievable as it may sound our people, Eileen and Corie, in extreme weather of **minus** twenty four degrees wind-chill and icy crusty snow did lay tracks and expect us to follow them!! As the Faithful Trackers that we are, we did go out and rescue their silly gloves BUT we submit that our contract calls for over-time wiener payments under these conditions. We would appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted

Brother Kavik and Brother Montana



Pets often ease stress, survey says

Pets make people happier, according to a recent survey by the American Animal Hospital Association. More than 1200 pet owners in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico were polled. Here are some of the results

- *97 per cent say their pet makes them smile at least once a day.
- *76 per cent believe their pet eases their stress levels.
- *65 per cent believe their pet improves their mental health.
- *85 per cent believe their pet shows concern when they are sick.
- *63 per cent celebrate their pet's birthday and 43 per cent give their pet a wrapped gift
- *64 per cent hang a Christmas stocking for their pet.
- *73 per cent have received a card "signed" by their pet.
- *43 per cent have taken their pet to work
- *48 per cent have taken at least two days off because of their pet
- *46 per cent say they plan all or most of their free time around their pet.
- *Almost half have more pictures of their pet than of their spouse or significant other.
- *52 per cent have cooked for their pets.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Hellenstein Racher CDX TD "Ranger" Feb 17 1993-Jan 16 2003. He was a month short of 10th birthday. He's greatly missed by Frank and his sister in law Anne. He is pictured here with Frank's Great nephew Ethan. Ranger was a versatile dog with a TD and one leg towards a Utility title. He had also earned his Am. CD. Frank and Ranger were the Club's tracking demo for our last Tracking Seminar.



Highprofile Petunia Girl "Sasha" May 6 1993-Feb 20 2003

Sasha was owned and loved by Dorothy Phillips and her family.

Sasha was a therapy dog and had a CGC certificate, she was on the North York Obedience drill team and did visitations to St Michael's at Christmas time and she was really good at it. She loved people, dogs and puppies. Obedience wasn't her favourite sport. She didn't like to swim but she would stand at the shore and look pretty.

The New CCTC line of clothing has arrived.

An order form is included for those who wish to purchase any of our Club wear. We have left to right, Elaine wearing the jacket, Marie with the jacket and hat, Maryke wearing the grey polo shirt and holding her jacket then we have Lia modelling her jacket with fleece liner and Eileen wearing the hat and the green polo shirt and holding her jacket. Every piece has the Logo embroidered on it. We who have already purchased ours are very pleased with them. The jacket is waterproof and has a hidden hood in the collar for those rainy tracking days. The clothing are not limited to members only, so if you have friends that are interested they may also order



“TRAINING THE NEW PUPPY ”

I would play lots of games when you are at home with puppy and getting ready for work or relaxing after work that will build on the things you want the puppy to know for tracking using a clicker and a treat - this can all be done in the living room and hallway, or the driveway under your floodlight on a longline:

- glove games - play with the glove, throw the glove, put a treat in the glove, anything to make that glove the most coveted of all toys - with no glove "Down" [lure puppy into a down with a treat and click, give the treat] - vocabulary and behaviour "is that your glove?" [puppy looks at it—"CLICK!" - treat] working up to "where's the glove?" [puppy spots it, runs beedles over to it with you behind and you gently lure puppy into a down with a treat - "CLICK!" - treat] or "Let's go find it! Find the glove!"

On weekends, you just move this into the outdoors and stomp three short tracks (20, 30 and 40 steps for a little gaffer). Over time you can judge lengthening these. Put some bait down in every 2nd step if that's how you train, with the glove at the end but no treat on the glove, and bring puppy up to track one, put on the harness and start using that vocabulary puppy is used to - "where's the glove?" Point to the bait to get the head down. I hope you have warm wet snow or warm days and the puppy can negotiate the short little track. Let puppy pull along using a 6 ft leash (over time you can judge using something longer) and when puppy gets to that glove, you get out your bait, lure into a down and click and treat. Do the next two tracks. Doing this every weekend won't hurt, as long as you keep up games in between. The sooner you do it, the better it will imprint in a young puppy's mind and it will all come back to them.

Another idea is for a friend to lay a short track and wave the glove so your puppy sees it and have them put it down, with you holding your puppy already in harness. You say "Let's go get that glove!" and let puppy pull you to it, and when you reach it, you lure into a down, click and treat. Never let the puppy run, always keep tension on the line so puppy learns the feeling. It works like a restrained recall. It starts a puppy off with lots of enthusiasm and is a variation on the hide and seek game.

A third idea is a row of gloves (my dogs love this). Lay a track of gloves to keep a young puppy's interest. At each one, lure into a down, click and treat. I trained my first tracking dog this way, but I trained him to pick up the glove and stay in a stand, looking back at me. I would line my driveway with gloves, going down one side and up the other. My cat would follow at the end of the tracking line playing with it. We must have looked like a real sight to my neighbors, but Hawk, a B&T GSD, always picked up articles, including the tiny squares of leather they used for his TDX, and when he was 13 and we had to carry him up and down stairs, he would grab for gloves we had tossed at the top stair to dry on the vent while in my husband's arms, then, glove in his mouth, he would glare at us for a treat!
Once a tracking dog, always a tracking dog!

I have been convinced that to lie down at the glove is a better indication, and all of my young dogs try their best to get cookies in the kitchen by bringing me all of the gloves lying around the house and dropping them in the kitchen by the cookie jar, then doing a "down." This is the magic of a clicker and a treat, and starting them young. Sometimes I will toss out a glove and say (to a 3 year old, 5 year old and 6 year old) "Is that your glove?" And they all back into a down upon seeing the glove. That is the imprinted response I want, and what I would envision with my 12 week old. See a glove - lie down.

There are so many things you can be doing with a youngster it makes me jealous! Don't hold the puppy back! This is the age they learn. Have fun and be creative. Dogs learn faster than we think and sometimes the repetitive training we expose them to in intensive tracking is more than some need. You have a Golden, so the desire to please and the desire to get the glove will already be very strong. Don't allow retrieving (in my opinion) as it takes the article off course, and you always want to know where the dog found the article, especially as your 12 week old will one day be a TDX star! Aim for straight lines when in the field to avoid the habit of quartering, and try to go into the wind with your baby - no crosswinds!

Donna Smith
Spiritdance