



Tracking Club of  
Massachusetts

# TCM

July 2011

[www.trackingclubofma.com](http://www.trackingclubofma.com)

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

## Club Officers

President & Judge  
Arthur Twiss  
781-944-5408  
[Atwiss2@verizon.net](mailto:Atwiss2@verizon.net)

Vice-President & Judge  
Miles Garrod  
603-471-0360  
[Kitchener\\_M@myfairpoint.net](mailto:Kitchener_M@myfairpoint.net)

Recording Secretary  
Jane Taylor  
508-277-2745  
[jmt1051@comcast.net](mailto:jmt1051@comcast.net)

Corresponding Secretary  
Donna Kiuru  
978-665-2933  
[leomecs@aol.com](mailto:leomecs@aol.com)

Treasurer  
Karen Oliver  
978-866-6494  
[Kro0611@comcast.net](mailto:Kro0611@comcast.net)

Directors  
Sally Garrod  
603-471-0360  
[Kitchener\\_M@myfairpoint.net](mailto:Kitchener_M@myfairpoint.net)

Pam Frattallone  
978-486-3157  
[cockerdog@verizon.net](mailto:cockerdog@verizon.net)

Joyce Arivella  
(Membership Chair)  
603-497-4001  
[St8ofnews@yahoo.com](mailto:St8ofnews@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Submissions  
Kari Lavalli  
[klavalli@yahoo.com](mailto:klavalli@yahoo.com)

## Welcome to Our Newsletter!

We continue to grow in membership and the Club is offering more activities. Just this year, we offered not only our normal T.D., T.D.X., and V.S.T. trials, but we also offered Beginner Clinics and an advanced seminar given by two of the foremost tracking experts in the U.S. Our increasing membership is wonderful, but that in turn creates a problem of how can we best stay in touch with each other. My pet project to set up regional membership training sessions is not moving along as fast as I would like. If members have located adequate training areas/fields, please drop me a note, since finding such locations is becoming more and more difficult.

T.C.M. needs to be known for something more than just a test giving organization that also holds Beginner's clinics. A number of people who take our clinics seem to form small tracking groups that practice regularly, but we rarely hear about these groups. If you participate in such a group, please let us know so we can refer people to you.

Please give your constructive criticism about how we can solve the problem of staying in touch to either myself, any Board member, or to Kari. For example, does the format of this Newsletter meet your expectations? Does it facilitate communication? If not, why not? Does it provide you with good information that you can put to use in your tracking activities. What would you like to see included?

Also, please send articles, questions for our judges, brags, and anything else relevant to tracking to [klavalli@yahoo.com](mailto:klavalli@yahoo.com) for submission.

Thanks for your help.

*Art Twiss*  
President

## Meet Your Local Judges: Art Twiss

My interest in how dogs solve scent problems first started when I was a youngster growing up in rural Vermont farm country. Although most family dogs were house pets, they did help us when we hunted various birds, ducks, and rabbits or acted as a companion when long walks were taken in the woods.

Ruthie and I became involved with the Rottweiler breed in late 1961, but did not own one until later. "Brummel", our first Rottweiler, was intended to be a show dog, but unfortunately he was a Grade 5 bi-lateral dysplastic. He also had an OCD problem and was the third dog at Angell Memorial to undergo an "experimental procedure" to correct that problem. Despite his conditions, he was never lame nor in pain, but he did walk slightly differently than other dogs.

Ruth Ridings, who we had met earlier at the N.E. Dog Training Club, suggested that we try tracking with him. Not only was she a beloved personal friend, she was our tracking mentor and she got us started in our tracking career and helped in the training of both "Brummel" and our first champion, "Anker". "Brummel" passed his first T.D. test on October 04, 1970 and she continued to help us train all of our other dogs for years thereafter.

"Brummel" holds the A.K.C. tracking record for his breed - 13 for 13 and he was the first Rottweiler to get a tracking title in Canada. His average time to do a track was about 5 minutes. Not bad for a dog who as a puppy could not walk more than 500 feet without stopping to rest. He died a week before he was to go back to Canada for a T.D.X. test. I hold other tracking "firsts" for our breed.

Between 1969 and mid-1985, I was a tracklayer at numerous tests for a variety of judges from around the country. After the events of "plot day", I would formalize my field maps and completed the necessary A.K.C. forms and then the judges would critique my work. That was a tremendous learning opportunity for me. It was during this time period that Ruthie and I held tracking classes for the Concord Dog Club.

Canada had the T.D.X. test before the A.K.C. developed one. "Our group", consisting of Ruth Ridings, Carole Bolan, Marianne Wood, Ted Sprague, Ruthie, and myself, spent countless hours on weekends trying to plot what might be an acceptable T.D.X. track. Specific tracks were then tested with one of the group's dogs. Our comments were sent to the A.K.C. for their review.

I was approved to judge T.D. trials on 08/01/85; T.D.X. on 03/01/93 & V.S.T. on 01/06/00. As a judge, my

standard has always been to plot tracks that are both fair, but challenging, so no team will ever get a "cheap title".



## John & Darlene Barnard Seminar

T.C.M. sponsored two signature events this year: A T.D.X. test on May 1<sup>st</sup> that was judged by John & Darlene Barnard. John & Darlene returned the following weekend to conduct a two day tracking seminar. Their combined knowledge and years of participation in the Sport of Tracking has enabled them to become two of the nation's top tracking experts.

Whenever you get the opportunity to be a track layer for a test you should take advantage of it. It is the best way to understand why tracks are designed as they are based on the restrictions of the land you have to work with. How a judge tries to avoid scent traps for the dog is an extremely important topic that is too complex for this short summary of the seminar. Both John & Darlene discussed this issue in depth with everyone throughout the weekend events.

Miles Garrod and Randie Meyer were our two workhorses behind the scenes of this successful event. Negotiating all the necessary details with the hotel was not an easy task and, yes, a few minor problems did exist with the hotel staff. Not only did Randie put in the long hours with Miles, but she coordinated all the activities of each day and kept the various timetables moving forward. All of us should give them a big "Thank You" for a job well done.

On Friday afternoon, April 29, John & Darlene had Miles, Deb Brown and I laid both numerous and specific tracks that were designed to show the attendees on Saturday & Sunday various tracking problems. Those tracks were used by teams chosen through a random drawing on both Saturday & Sunday. Both John & Darlene gave on-going comments as the teams worked each track, as well as a final critique of each performance at the end of each track. Simply put, this is how one learns about some of the pros and cons of tracking and how to better train your dog.

The in-house study periods covered a wide range of serious tracking topics that one needs to understand if one is to become successful in the sport. The way John & Darlene interfaced with each other kept the overall study sessions light-hearted and highly humorous.

Saturday night's sit down supper & the get together in Mile's room afterwards gave all of us the opportunity to socialize & talk informally with John & Darlene. We broke up about 10:00 P.M. to get rested for a busy Sunday.

I'm hoping that everyone who attended either one of the two weekend events would agree that it was time well spent. Training a dog to follow something a human cannot see is not a simple undertaking.



From left to right: Deb Brown, Darlene & John Barnard, Miles Garrod at High Ridge Wildlife Management Area in Gardner

## Membership Corner

I usually have a few inquiries from people looking for someone to track with in their area. TCM would like to help all our members get started and find tracking buddies. If you are interested in starting a training (tracking) group, there are two things we need you to do.

First, find a field or park in your area that can be used for training. If it is a field, ask the owner if they will allow you to use the property to train a small group of dogs for Search & Rescue. Most people will understand what Search & Rescue is but not what Tracking is. If it is a park, you will want to find out if dogs are allowed and whether loose dogs are an issue there.

Second, check your membership list for members close to you - most people will travel about an hour to train. You should also have a spreadsheet of members sorted by zip code which I sent with the membership list. Zip codes were created numerically so that towns close to each other could be identified. This means that 01450 Groton, 01452 Hubbardston and 01453 Leominster can easily be identified as close to each other. If you need the zip code spreadsheet or a membership list please contact me.

Once you have identified other members in your area send emails or make calls asking if they would be interested in joining a tracking training group. When you have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 people interested send me an email at [St8ofnewfs@yahoo.com](mailto:St8ofnewfs@yahoo.com). We have experienced trackers who will be happy to come and help you get started. They will give you basic tips such as laying a track, making a map and maybe a few hints on solving problems. There are excellent programs our members have used to train their way to a new TD!

Please keep in mind that this is not a tracking seminar. TCM encourages our members to be more active and we understand that some people are not sure where to start and would like some help. Getting you started is what we hope to accomplish.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at [St8ofnewfs@yahoo.com](mailto:St8ofnewfs@yahoo.com).

Happy Tracking!

*Joyce Arivella*  
Membership Chair



## Science Corner

At the Barnard's seminar, participants were given a set of articles. This newsletter's Science Corner will summarize one of those articles so that those members who were unable to attend the seminar can benefit from the information contained within.

Thesen, Steen, and Døving studied the olfactory behavior of dogs during tracking. To do this, they outfitted the dogs with microphones fastened above the dogs' nose and videotaped both the footwork of the tracklayer and later that of the dog with a resolution of 40 ms. Tests were run on grass and on concrete; the sound of sniffing was obscured in the trials on grass, since the dog's nose moving in the grass also created a sound. Hence, the data reported focused on the concrete trials.

With dogs and handlers out of the area, tracklayers laid 5 tracks in different directions along a grid of 10x4 squares (2 footprints per square). Tests began 3 min after the track had been laid with the dogs standing in a heel position 5 m away from the middle of the track and perpendicular to that track. When given a signal, the dog was asked to track by its handler. When it found the track, the dog turned either to the right or to the left and non-visible rewards were present at the end of the track.

The researchers followed the number of sniffs per second, the number of sniffs between each breath, the number of forepaw steps per second, the number of footprints sniffed at, and the time elapsed between finding the track and deciding on a particular direction.

All dogs tested ultimately tracked in the correct direction, but they did not always choose the correct direction when the first found the track. When choosing the wrong direction initially, dogs abruptly turned and walked in the opposite direction to correct themselves.

The researchers determined that there were three distinct phases that made up the dog's behavior. The first phase, *searching*, occurred while dogs were trying to find the track and consisted of sniffing at a frequency of 6Hz ten to seventeen times between each breath and walking rapidly (3 steps per second). Once the track was located, dogs entered the *deciding* phase; this phase was characterized by a reduced walking rate (1.9 steps per second), the same frequency of sniffing (6Hz) thirty to forty times per breath. The dogs also kept their nose close to the ground (~1 cm off the concrete). The third phase, *tracking*, was more similar to the searching phase, in that step rate increased (3.2 steps per second). The sniff frequency remained constant at 6Hz but occurred at a period of 8 to 15 times per breath.

So what does this mean? When dogs search for a track, they move quickly with short sniffing periods. Once they've detected a track and are trying to decide direction, they slow down and lengthen their sniffing period. They need to smell only 2-5 footprints to determine track direction (this study and see Newsletter, vol. 4(1), pg 6 which states that 5 footprints minimally

## Science Corner (cont.)

are needed) and once they've decided tracking direction, they again move quickly with short sniffing periods. How do you translate this to training your dog? When coming to the beginning of a track -- particularly when training for the TDX or VST when track direction is not known -- you need to give your dog time to get through that decision-making phase. You also need to pay attention if your dog abruptly turns around after beginning the tracking phase as this indicates that he or she is correcting the direction chosen.

Thesen, A., Steen, J.B., and K.B. Døving. 1993. Behaviour of dogs during olfactory tracking. *Journal of Experimental Biology* **180**: 247-251.

#####

Since the above article was a short and simple, a second article is summarized below.

We all know that the olfactory abilities of dogs are superior to our own. But are our own abilities so poor that we can't track? This question was asked by a research team from UC-Berkley, UPenn, and the Weizmann Institute in Israel. Humans were chosen because, like dogs, they can follow instructions and tolerate manipulations, but unlike dogs, they can accurately report the behavioral strategies they use to solve a sensory problem.

These researchers blocked all sensory input except that of olfaction (subjects were outfitted with ear muffs, opaque goggles, thick work gloves on the hands, and knee and elbow pads) and then asked 32 naïve humans to follow a 10-m long scent trail in an open grass field. The scent trail consisted of a twine line embedded in grass and soaked in a 2% solution of odorant. The thick work gloves, elbow and knee pads were used to prevent any somatosensory input that could be acquired by touching the twine. The subjects were also outfitted with a backpack that allowed measurement of real-time nasal airflow through the nose. An aerial digital video camera recorded the tracking human's pathway.

When positioned 3 meters from and perpendicular to the trail, subjects crawled with nose to the ground to locate the trail and then followed it. Two-thirds (21) of the subjects were capable of following the trail to its terminus (see video at <http://www.nature.com/neuro/journal/v10/n1/extref/nn1819-S2.mov>).

With additional training on tracks (3 tracks a day for three days over a 2 week training period) and varied approach angles to the track, subjects improved their tracking abilities with less casting and straighter pathways. They also doubled their velocity along the tracks from 0.026 meters per second the first day to 0.057 meters per second the third day, and increased their sniffing frequency as velocity increased.

## Science Corner (cont.)

A subsequent series of experiments on a subset of the original subjects involved manipulating the information provided by the nostrils. For the first experimental manipulation, 11 subjects were outfitted with a plastic nasal clip that blocking sniffing. None of the subjects thus treated were able to locate or follow the odor trail. In the second experimental manipulation, 14 subjects were asked to perform the same scent-tracking task once with one nostril taped shut and once with both nostrils open. The order of nostril manipulation was varied randomly across subjects. With both nostrils open, subjects were successful in tracking the scent trail 66% of the time; with only one nostril open, the success rate fell to 36% and subjects experienced a 26% reduction in speed in tracking.

A final test used particle image velocimetry to measure the velocity of neutrally buoyant particles in a plane that intersected the nose during sniffing. This test showed that each nostril clearly inspired air from distinct, non-overlapping regions in space that were influenced by asymmetries in each nostril. A maximum velocity of 0.45 m per second was recorded by the right nostril with a reach of 1.5 to 2.0 cm to the right, while the left nostril attained a maximum velocity of 0.3 m per second with a 1.0 to 1.5 cm to the left. The two nostrils thus sampled information from centroid forms laterally separated by 3.5 cm, which means that one nostril of a human can be within a scent plume while the other is out of the plume. The lessened accuracy of the subjects tested with one nostril taped shut strongly suggests that these tracking humans were using comparison of simultaneous input across the two nostrils to localize scent trails. To test this, 4 subjects were outfitted with a nasal prism that maintained input into the two nostrils, but conjoined the flow pathways to form a single virtual nostril in the middle of the nose. Therefore, while sampling would still occur with two nostrils, there would be no spatial separation information available. Tracking accuracy fell from 75% for subjects outfitted with a prism that did not conjoin flow pathways to 42% for subjects outfitted with the prism that did conjoin flow pathways.

So can humans track? Yes, absolutely. Not only can we track, but we appear to use the same strategies that macrosmatic mammals do by simultaneous sampling of spatially offset locations provided by the two nostrils of the nose. So next time you lay a track for your dog, try following it yourself!

Porter, J., B. Craven, R.M. Khan, S-J Chang, I. Kang, B. Judkewicz, J. Volpe, G. Settles, and N. Sobel. 2007. Mechanisms of scent-tracking in humans. *Nature Neuroscience* 10(1): 27-29 plus supplements at [http://www.nature.com/neuro/journal/v10/n1/supinfo/nn1819\\_S1.html](http://www.nature.com/neuro/journal/v10/n1/supinfo/nn1819_S1.html).

## Tracking Tips from a Recent Competitor

### *A Long and Winding Road (Track?)*

On May 8, 2011—Mother's Day and my wedding anniversary—Morgan (Tuckerfield Ledgeland by Sea) and I successfully completed the 470 yard, four corner track that earned him the AKC title of Tracking Dog. Since we had started our tracking career almost five years earlier, this title was long anticipated. What took us so long to get to that happy day in South Hero, Vermont, with the Burlington Obedience Training Club (BOTC)?

In June 2006, I attended a tracking clinic sponsored by the Mayflower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club and led by tracking judge Lynda McKee, who in 1997 earned the first CT on a Pembroke and on an AKC breed champion. I had never done any tracking before, but it sounded like an interesting sport. What could be better than time outdoors with your dog, doing what the dog does naturally? After that seminar, I knew I wanted to do more, and made the goal to test Morgan at the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America's Specialty that was to be held in Warwick, Rhode Island, in September 2007.

I found a group with which to work, though no one, not even the leader, had done any tracking before. We did have a copy of TCM's tracking book to guide us. We met faithfully for several weeks, and then people started to lose interest. Soon I alone was left. I continued to track Morgan sporadically throughout the fall and following spring, and did my best to keep us moving ahead. In retrospect, I made two big mistakes that would haunt us later: by setting my own tracks, I knew where the corners were and did not fully learn to observe and trust my dog; and I marked the corners (exactly) with flags or with fluorescent clothespins—which very quickly became indicators for Morgan: when he saw a flag, he started looking for a corner.

In the spring of 2007 Morgan and I began sheep herding, with the aim of entering Herding Tested (HT) at the September Specialty. As spring moved into summer, we herded several times a week and tracked on days when we were not herding. Very quickly Morgan seemed to be confused with his tracking. Skills that seemed in place now diminished or disappeared. He began looking to me for instruction just a few yards beyond the first flag. I emailed Lynda McKee for help, and she offered the best advice she could from her home near Atlanta. In the end, I decided to put the tracking aside and focus on herding. Morgan earned his HT at the Specialty.

I joined TCM in 2007 because I knew that I needed guidance if I was to move ahead in the sport that I enjoyed but also found frustrating at times. I attended meetings, fun days, and seminars, and with the help of experienced mentors was able to make some progress. I found—and lost—a series of tracking partners, which was unfortunate because I now knew that I should not be my own tracklayer. Because of the lack of tracking partners as well as a busy work schedule, I rarely tracked for the next two years. My recovery from surgery for a torn rotator cuff in early 2009 meant no time in the field for several months.

After finding both an enthusiastic tracking partner (thank you, Kari!) and an instructor willing to work closely with me (thank you, Randie!), I set the goal to test Morgan in the fall of 2010. On a very hot July 2010 day we attempted—and failed—our first certification track. A second attempt a few weeks later on a newly hayed field (with the grass still standing in piles) also resulted in



## Tracking Tips (cont.)

failure. Having now missed the deadlines for test entries, I figured we would not try to certify until spring. But on a November day when I thought I was going to a training session with Randie, she surprised me with a certification track. Morgan stuck to his track despite the scent of a dog that had repeatedly come to visit Randie while she was laying the track. Certification letter in hand, I looked for tests in the spring.

Only two TD tests were available that fit my schedule—the Tracking Club of Vermont test on May 1 and the BOTC test on May 8—and I entered both. We made the draw for the TCV test, and on a chilly morning I picked the first track of the test. We started off well, but then after the second corner Morgan started moving to the edge of the field. Very odd, I thought. So I wasn't too surprised when I heard the whistle. Also odd: Morgan was not interested in putting his nose down to finish the track. What was going on? It was then that I realized we were tracking in heavy alfalfa—something that we had not done before. It appeared that the smell of alfalfa was extremely off-putting to him. I also considered other possible explanations for his behavior: my nervousness, and the fact that this was the first over-night trip he and I had taken alone and that he had not really settled the night before.

Before I left for the TCV test I had gotten word that we were the first alternate for the BOTC test. After our failed attempt with TCV, I was somewhat relieved that I might not get into the BOTC test: I wanted more practice with Morgan, but tracking him more than once a week had proven unwise. The day after our return from Danby, I learned that there would be a track for us in South Hero. I debated throughout the following week whether or not to attend. What if we drew another alfalfa field? Would Morgan's frustration from the week before carry over? The causeway to South Hero was under water—could we even get to the test? In the end, I went, figuring that since I had already paid the entry fee it would be good practice if nothing else. To address possible problems from the previous test, my husband and other dogs accompanied us on this trip. It is an understatement to say that I am glad we went!

What have I learned from this long journey? First, although one can certainly practice tracking alone, I think much more learning happens when one works with others. Not only is there camaraderie, conversation, and the chance to observe other teams at work, there is a greater likelihood of learning more quickly to read and trust the dog (*fide canem!*). Second, one should train for all kinds of situations. I thought we had done well in our preparations, but we had not trained on extremely hot days or in newly-mowed grass or in fields of nothing but alfalfa, and our lack of experience hurt when it mattered most. Third, a good tracklayer is worth gold! Each of us should aspire to be the best tracklayer that we can be. Last of all, to have fun. Yes, there can be frustrations and setbacks in training. But the quality time we spend with our dogs is of great value in itself.

*Karen Westerfield Tucker*



## Tracking in the Summer Heat

Unless you track in the snowy winter months, we in the Northeast have a limited time during which we can regularly train our dogs for tracking. Many of us start up in the early spring when temperatures are still cool and pleasant. We also avidly track in the fall, again when temperatures are cool and when we can train for various wind conditions. In between, are the three hot summer months. Some days and weeks during these months can be downright belligerent.

Many who track in the summer do so in the early wee hours of morning before the sun has hit its zenith. Others try evening tracking when things are cooling off (sort of, anyway). Even by starting very early, if tracking with a group and laying multiple tracks, some of which might be aged for more than a half hour, one can start feeling the effects of the building heat. What of our dogs?

Recently, the following information was posted on the Yahoo Tracking List about recognizing heatstroke in dogs and what to do if your dog suffers from this potentially fatal condition. The board of TCM felt that this information was important enough to reproduce for our membership. This information was modified from that originally provided by Robert Newman.

So, firstly, what is heatstroke? Basically, heatstroke is defined as the dog being unable to regulate its body temperature (which dogs primarily do through panting) so that the body temperature rises more quickly than the dog can dissipate it. Normal dog body temperature is between 100.5° and 102.5°F. If a dog's body temperature rises to 105°F, the dogs begins to experience effects of heatstroke. If the temperature rises to 106° to 108°F, the dog will suffer IRREVERSIBLE damage to its kidneys, liver, GI tract, heart, and brain.

Heatstroke signs include: excessive panting, hyperventilation, increased salivation, dry pale gums (grey and tacky), rapid/erratic pulse, weakness, confusion, inattention, vomiting, diarrhea, and possible rectal bleeding. If the dog continues to overheat, breathing rate will slow or cease altogether and seizures or coma will follow. Obviously, it is clear that immediate action must be taken if your dog starts to show signs of heatstroke. So what should you do if you suspect that your dog is overheating and may be suffering from heatstroke?

1. Pay attention to your dog. Know what its "normal" panting rate looks like. Recognize the above signs of heatstroke and check your dog's gums. If your dog becomes wobbly on a track or lies down and will not get up, then you have a problem emerging. Respond immediately (that means STOP tracking, STOP asking the dog to do any kind of exercise).
2. Get into the shade if you think your dog is suffering from heatstroke. Apply cool water to the inner thighs and stomach of the dog, where there's a higher concentration of relatively superficial, large blood vessels. Apply cool water to the foot pads.

## Tracking & Heatstroke (cont.)

3. Use running water. A faucet or hose is the best way to wet down your dog's body. Never submerge your dog in water, such as in a pool or tub - this could cool the dog too rapidly, leading to further complications, including cardiac arrest and bloating. It could also mat the fur against the body, in which case that will insulate the dog against further cooling effects of the water. NOTE: the fields where most of us track do not have running water/hoses and so this step is going to be very difficult for trackers. You should, however, carry multiple coolers of "cool" water with you in your car if you are tracking in the summer heat.

4. Use cool - not cold - water. Many people make the mistake of using cold water or ice to cool the dog. When faced with a dog suffering from heatstroke, remember that the goal is to cool the dog. Using ice or extremely cold water is actually counterproductive to this process because ice and cold water cause the blood vessels to constrict, which slows blood flow, thus slowing the cooling process. Rubbing alcohol can also be very effective at cooling down your dog because of its rapid rate of evaporation. So you may want to keep a bottle of this in your first aid kit.

5. Don't cover the dog. One of the keys to successfully cooling your dog is ensuring the water being placed on the dog can evaporate. Never cover an overheated dog with a wet towel or blanket. This inhibits evaporation and creates a sauna effect around your dog's body. Likewise, don't wet the dog down and put it into an enclosed area, such as a crate. Any air flow during the cooling process is helpful in reducing the dog's body temperature. Sitting with the wet dog in a running car with the air conditioner blowing is an ideal cooling situation.

6. Keep the dog moving about slowly. It is important to try to encourage your dog to stand or walk slowly as it cools down so that the circulating blood does not pool in certain areas. You want the cooler outer blood to circulate back to the core so that the dog's body temperature can start to drop. This will happen much more slowly if the dog is lying down.

7. Allow the dog to drink small amounts of water. Cooling the dog is the first priority. Hydration is the next. Don't allow the dog to gulp water. Instead, offer small amounts of water that's cool, but not cold. If the dog drinks too much water too rapidly, it could lead to vomiting or bloat.

8. Avoid giving human performance drinks. Performance beverages designed for humans are not recommended because they are not formulated with canine physiology in mind. If you can't get an overheated dog to drink water, try offering chicken or beef-based broths. NOTE: for trackers, this means you have to be prepared and bring such broths with you. Carry cool water for yourself and your dog while out on a track and offer it to your dog when you notice that the rate of panting increases. DO NOT withhold water from your dog until the end of the track as a training gimmick.

## Tracking & Heatstroke (cont.)

9. Once your dog's temperature begins to drop, cease the cooling efforts and bring the dog to a veterinarian that has both in-house lab facilities and the ability to provide substantial IV care as soon as possible. Your dog's temperature should be allowed to slowly return to normal once cooling has begun. A dog that's cooled too quickly may become hypothermic. Even if your dog appears to be fully recovered, the veterinarian needs to check to determine if the heatstroke caused any damage to your dog's kidneys, GI tract, and liver. The effects of heatstroke can continue for 48 to 72 hours longer even if your dog appears normal. Bloody diarrhea can occur in heatstroke victims as the stomach and GI tract will be the first area affected when the dog's body tries to preserve vital organs by changing circulation to keep those organs cool. Circulation to the GI tract will be shunted and the intestinal lining will begin to die. This causes bloody diarrhea and the damaged intestinal lining can then become vulnerable to bacteria and toxins, leading to sepsis. IV fluids need to be administered along with GI protectants and broad spectrum antibiotics. Most importantly, coagulation factors need to be analyzed via a blood work up (this is why a veterinary facility with in-house lab facilities is critical). The most common cause of death following heatstroke is *disseminated intravascular coagulopathy* (DIC, which some vets term "Dead in Cage"). This condition occurs when blood coagulates throughout the body and can occur hours or days after the heatstroke episode. This coagulation is inappropriate and results in systemic generation of thrombin, which then produces widespread thrombosis (blockage of blood flow). Inhibiting factors such as antithrombin and protein C are depleted as the dog's body attempts to limit the over-activated hemostatic system (tissue/vessel wall/platelet system and coagulation cascade). Eventually, the widespread thrombosis will result in hemorrhage where the dog may bleed in the thorax, abdomen, nose, and intestine as platelets are consumed and coagulation factors are consumed and cleaved. While the clinical signs of DIC are bleeding, dogs are also simultaneously experiencing thrombosis and the combination of the two effects cause a high rate of mortality. For this reason, follow-up veterinary care is essential following a heatstroke episode, even if your dog appears to be completely fine. Understand that a heatstroke event followed by veterinary care is going to cost you \$3000 for a mild case and \$5000-\$6000 for a complicated case. Is that track you are planning to run really worth that?

10. Be sensible. Know the weather forecast before you go out. Pay attention to temperature conditions. If it is 87°F before 8 am, conditions are not going to improve - it's only going to get hotter. Do you really need to track that day? No sport, no training period, and no title is worth the life of your dog. Be prudent about how you train for this sport and don't push your dog into doing something that can risk its life. This is especially important for those of us with large breeds or dark-coated dogs who will heat up a lot faster in the summer sun than smaller or lighter-coated dogs. Stay home with the fans or AC blowing. Take your dog for a cooling swim instead. Prevention of heatstroke is the best medicine.

## TDX Test, 1 May 2011

The Tracking Club of Massachusetts held its spring TDX test at High Ridge in Gardner. We had 4 entries and 10 alternates. The judges plotted 4 tracks and one alternate track, which was used as an impromptu seminar track. We had good weather, and 2 of the 4 teams passed under judges John and Darlene Barnard.

Track 1 - Golden Retriever bitch passed with solid, persistent work through Carol's Field. Congratulations to Goldenway's Thanks for the Memories CD TD CGC and Rose Mary Laubach.

Track 2 - Beagle bitch passed, with diligent, patient, methodical work, especially at the tree line. Congratulations to Lanbur Bridalvales Clover Bud RE TD AXP AXJP, handled by Carol Bolan.

Track 3 - Cocker Spaniel dog had a great work ethic, but missed the first article on the track and took a wrong turn downfield.

Track 4 - Belgian Tervuren dog - started off with gusto, but missed the first article.

Alternate track - despite the number of entries received, the alternate track was not needed for a titling track. The judges offered to use the track as an impromptu seminar track, with Darlene working with the demonstration team, and John following and lecturing the gallery. The English Cocker Spaniel worked very well, and we all learned a great deal from very knowledgeable teachers.

Our tracklayers and test volunteers were a vital part of a successful test. A big thank you to Gail Kuncho, Jane Taylor, Phil Keating, Sue Latham, Art Twiss, Randie Meyer, Donna Kiuru, Pat Gaudette, and Miles Garrod.

We had beautiful sunshine, a cool breeze, gorgeous scenery, tasty food, fun people, and great dog-handler teams, two of which passed the test to earn their TDX. Well done!



*Sharon Concannon*  
TDX Test Secretary



## VST Test, 29 May 2011

The Tracking Club of Massachusetts held its Variable Surface Tracking Test at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Judges for this event were Art Twiss and Michael Clemens; the Test Committee members were Karen Oliver, Chair; Phil Keating, Chief Tracklayer; Pat Gaudette, Hospitality; Carolyn Johnston, Tracklayer; and Lori Hall, Secretary and Tracklayer. Jane Taylor and Sharon Concannon were also tracklayers for this event. There were five tracks for our test and we received a total of seven entries. The pick was completed at 8:00 p.m. on May 19, 2011, for the five tracks and the two alternates. Once we were closer to the date of the test, I was contacted by one of the five participants stating he had to withdraw.

On the morning of Saturday, May 28th, when we convened at Holy Cross to start laying tracks Mike Clemens and Art Twiss conferred in reference to adding one more track to the event, so all of the entrants including the alternate would be able to run a track. It was decided that a sixth track was feasible and Randie Meyers volunteered to lay the sixth track.

On May 29th the tracks were laid starting at 6:40 a.m. at half hour intervals; the pick was done at 9:45 a.m. and the track 1 team started their track at 9:52 a.m. The day was dry with a slight wind, but hot and unfortunately none of the teams passed their VST Test.

I would like to thank Art Twiss, Mike Clemens, Karen Oliver, Pat Gaudette, Phil Keating, Randie Meyer, Jane Taylor, Carolyn Johnston, Sharon Concannon, Donna Kiuru and Karen Tucker for all they did to help TCM put on a successful VST Test. Also, huge thanks (again) for Phil & Randie who did an outstanding job keeping everyone away from the areas where our tracks were. Again, sincere thanks to everyone involved because without these people this test would not have been successful.

*Lori Hall*

VST Trial Secretary

### TCM Upcoming Events

**October 8-9, 2011 - TDX Test** at High Ridge WMA, Gardner, MA (Judges: Art Twiss & Carol Ruthenberg). Contact trial secretary Leland Perry at [lelper@aol.com](mailto:lelper@aol.com)

**October 15-16, 2011 - Beginner Tracking Clinic** with Miles Garrod. Contact clinic secretary Pam Frattallone at [cockerdog@verizon.net](mailto:cockerdog@verizon.net)

**October 29-30, 2011 - TD Test** at Walpole Agricultural School, MA (Judges: Miles Garrod & Deb Brown). Contact trial secretary Betty Leblanc at [Bette4y@yahoo.com](mailto:Bette4y@yahoo.com)

**November 12, 2011 - Annual Awards Banquet** Apple Hill Farm and Country Club, Leominster, MA. Contact Donna Kiuru at [leomecs@aol.com](mailto:leomecs@aol.com)



Karen Tucker & her Corgi, Morgan

New TD Title, May 2011

Please join us for our club meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for September. See the TCM Website for details as they arise.

Also, please encourage your training buddies to join TCM. Membership rates are:

\$15.00 for Associate Member  
\$20.00 for Full Voting Member

*We need volunteers for help with the October tracking clinic -- this is a great way to learn more about tracking and to see different breeds in action! Contact Pam Frattallone.*

NOTE: TCM hats are now available for purchase. Contact Donna Kiuru at [leomecs@aol.com](mailto:leomecs@aol.com). They are \$15 at all events or \$15 + \$5.95 S&H if ordered by mail.



Rose Mary Laback & her Golden

Carole Bolan & her Beagle

New TDX Titles, May 2011

Additional Member Brag: Barb Burri's Labrador Retriever, Hawke, was nominated for the AKC's Award for Canine Excellence (ACE) as a Therapy Dog.