

TRACKING CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS

Club Officers

President

Arthur Twiss

781-944-5408

atwiss2@verizon.net

Vice-President

Miles Garrod

603-471-0360

Recording Secretary

Pamela Frattallone

978-486-3157

Cockerdog@verizon.net

Corresponding Secretary

Marianne Wood

978-772-2613

mfwoodtk@netlplus.com

Treasurer

Karen Oliver

978-866-6494

Kro0611@comcast.net

Director

Janet Steeger

781-771-1373

Janet.steeger@qcmatrix.com

Director

Tracy Gustafson

TRACYG31458@netzero.net

Director

Rosemarie Grimes

978-443-5219

rosemar614@aol.com

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TCM

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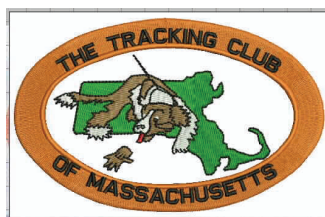
Welcome to the Club



On May 26, 1978, a group of tracking enthusiasts in New England formed the Tracking Club of Massachusetts. Our purpose is to encourage the sport of tracking, by offering tracking clinics, seminars, certification matches and licensed AKC tracking tests; assisting other obedience clubs wanting to start holding tracking tests, and helping individuals who are seriously committed towards becoming an AKC Judge.

Our members have worked hard and we have built a Club that has awarded literally hundreds of tracking titles. TCM helped usher in the Tracking Dog Excellent program in 1990 and also the Variable Surface Tracking test in 1997. It's been a tremendous effort, and we are

proud to have been a guiding hand for tracking enthusiasts both in the past and hopefully well into the future as well.



It's an exciting time to be a member of TCM as we plan the future of the club. The TCM Board of Directors is creating its own web site. First the Club has purchased its own domain (trackingclubofma.com) and is in the process of interviewing several web designers about creat-

ing a user friendly site that will cover all of the club's needs.

TCM is also looking into expanding the number of tracking tests it offers each year. To help increase the passing rate of these tests TCM will be offering several Tackling Seminars and Workshops.

Tracking is becoming more popular with each passing year. As the oldest tracking testing Club in New England, TCM encourages new members to join the club. Come and visit one of our tests, get involved....or talk to any club member...find out if you'd like to start tracking with your dog...it's a lot of FUN and very rewarding for both the handler and the dog!

Letter from the President

To all our members:

Welcome to the new T.C.M. Newsletter. It will be used to keep all of our members up to date on a timely basis as to what is going on within the Club. Since this is the first edition I am hoping that Bill will hear from each of you with your constructive criticisms as to how it can be made better and more applicable to our needs.

Thanks Bill for taking on this new job.

Art Twiss

President



TCM UPCOMING EVENTS

- 04/18/2007—Annual Meeting
- 05/06/2007—TD, TDX Test
————Gardner, Ma
- 05/20/2007—VST Test
————Nashua, NH
- **Beginner's June 23-24**
Tracking Seminar Wrentham, Ma
- 10/07/2007—TDX Test
————Gardner, Ma
- 10/28/2007—TD Test
————Aver, Ma

March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Meeting	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



*Join us for our next club
sponsored Test in
Gardner, MA on May 6.*

January Minutes

Tracking Club of Massachusetts

January 17, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 7:20.

TCM members attending: Karen Oliver, Art Twiss, Miles Garrod, Pamela Frattallone, Donna Kiuru, Bill Woods, Marianne Wood, Janet Steeger.

Report of the President—Art Twiss

Now that he is retired Art said that his focus would be finding fields and sites for clinics, classes and test. He is planning on teaming up with Miles Garrod and Marianne Wood to search for site.

Report of Treasurer— Karen Oliver

Karen has received notice from Joan Muse that we have not filed our taxes for the years 2002 thru 2006. There does not seem to be any penalty and will cost \$15 each year to file. Karen will take care of this.

Web Site- Karen Oliver

We discussed our Web site and how to improve it and make it more informative and perhaps doing our own site separate from the Maine club.

Old Business-

Karen got a fruit basket for the owners of Top O the Hill farm to thank them for letting us use their farm.

We discussed holding seminars perhaps adding one for those who finished the beginner seminar and have been training and now had specific questions about problems they had run into. Miles Garrod stated that any student of his should phone him if they are having any problems and he would be glad to help them.

*Your opinion
matters. Come
to a meeting
and
contribute!*



Nominating Committee Report—Miles Garrod

This is to notify each member of the club of the candidates nominated by the nominating committee-

Miles Garrod presented a letter to the Board and gave a signed copy to the recording secretary, Pamela Frattallone, notifying the club of the progress of the committee. The committee included members Miles Garrod as chairman, Janet Kennedy and Bill Woods. Rainer Fuchs and Donna Kiuru were alternates, although their services were not required.

The members and the positions for which they are nominated are listed below:

President—Arthur Twiss

Vice-President—Miles Garrod

Recording Secretary—Pamela Frattallone

Corresponding Secretary—Marianne Wood

Treasurer—Karen Oliver

Directors—Janet Steeger, Donna Kiuru, Bill Woods

Each of these members has been contacted by the committee and has accepted. Additional nominations may be made that meet the requirements of Article IV, Section 4c of the TCM By-Laws.

Site Progress—Art said he felt speaking to people in person was the best way of contacting and securing sites for training, clinics and trails. He has retired and is planning to look at several colleges and other sites for the club to use for our various needs.

Pam Frattallone will contact High Ridge and attempt to get specific information about our training on their property.

New Business: Janet Steeger and Bill Woods presented several newsletters from other tracking clubs and the Board authorized them To get more information such as cost, difficulty of compiling, adding this to our web site. They will present their findings at the next meeting. They also will contact us regarding the difficulty of registering our own Domain name for our Web site.

Future meetings: Mark your calendars and remember every club member is welcome at every meeting.

-April 18th at 7:00, Annual Meeting at St. Anne's Church in Littleton

-Directions to St. Anne's Church.

495 Exit 30. Turn left at the ramp onto Route 2A. St. Anne's is 1/2 miles down on the left and parking is in the rear. Meeting rooms are in the Basement.

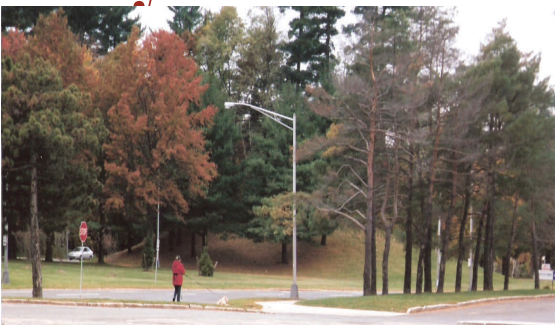
Adjourned at 9:30 PM

Your Dog can't

VOTE

That's your job!

Did you know?



Pam and Fremont at the VST in Albany

According to the AKC for the year of 2006. The following Tracking Test results are :

VST— 25 passes out of 333 entries—a pass rate of 8%

TDX—126 passes out of 673 entries—a pass rate of 19%

TD—463 passes out of 847 entries – a pass rate of 55%

My First Dog Competition by Janet Steeger

“Let Nealy work. “Don’t even begin to think you know where the track is.” “Breathe.” “Remember your pre-tracking routine.” “Don’t let your nerves go down the tracking line.” “Watch Nealy and let him work.” “Did I say ‘Breathe’??” “Don’t forget to BREATHE!”

Okay, so I’m a little nervous. This is my first dog and I’ve never been in any type of dog competition before. But we have trained hard (and hopefully well) and our certification track was solid so I think we can do this. It’s a chilly, sunny autumn day for the Tracking Club of Vermont’s TD test. The fields are gorgeous and the grass is short and green (oh, GOD, did I work enough in really short Grass?) There’s a bit of a breeze (did I train enough in wind?). I pulled the #6 track so I’ve got time to watch the other teams and get my nerves under control. The first team runs a beautiful track and earns their TD. (Okay, I can do this.) The second team starts down the

first leg and the dog starts to have a good roll in cow manure (I definitely did NOT train for THAT!) and can’t seem to recover to restart the track. They fail. (Oh God, please don’t let there be cows on or near my track! I have a herding dog!) Teams 3 through 5 do a nice job and their tracks and this helps my nerves and helps me focus.



Nealy pulling strong!



Janet with the judges Miles and Ray

It’s my turn now. Thank God for my pre-tracking routine. I start to relax as I don my vest and gaiters, unwind and throw out my leather tracking line and watch it unfurl into a long, straight line. I clip Nealy to the line and grab the harness. We report for Track #6. I walk towards the start flag and stop to place the harness on Nealy, whisper a little message in his ear as I stroke his fur and then clip the tracking line to the harness. Having performed this routine many, many times, my nerves have dissipated and we are focused as a team on what we need to do.



Janet and Nealy

We approach the start flag and I tell Nealy to “Suche”. He’s off and pulling hard, past the first and second flag and into the unknown. I focus intently on him while he pulls hard, nose deep. I don’t think I’ve ever seen him track so intensely. The old saying ‘nose to the rail’? That was Nealy. He comes to the first corner and after a brief check to either side, he takes a strong left turn. (Phew, the first corner down!) He continues to pull hard and we take the next turn to the right with no hesitation. (Wahoo!) I have complete trust and confidence in him and am enjoying this amazing sight of a dog following something that is completely invisible and unknown to me. We come to the 3rd turn and he casts around the corner to make sure he has it. He bobbles a bit to check ‘something’ but he turns around and pulls hard down the 4th leg. He then makes a solid left turn with no hesitation and we truck on down the last leg. My nerves start to

flair up because I’m thinking that we have to be close; that article has to be somewhere up ahead, doesn’t it? (Don’t think, just trust Nealy to get you there!). Nealy stops to sniff something and drops into a down. He found the glove! I whoop for joy and praise him for the best dog that he is! He did it! We did it! 470 yards in 5 minutes! The pride I felt for him was amazing! I hug the judges (Miles & Ray), thanking them for a wonderful track. After receiving wonderful awards from TCV, we make the long drive home for a big celebratory steak dinner. I think I like this dog competition stuff!



Gotham’s Jive Talkin’ TD CGC (aka Nealy)



The TDX handler's prayer

Please let me start
Oh, little dog make a choice.
Go. Go somewhere and
Look like you know where.
And if you must fail,
Please put me in the woods
Where no one can see me.

From
Practical Tracking for Practically Anyone

Braggs and Photo's



Congradutions to Janet Steeger and Gotham's Jive Talkin' (Nealy) TD, CGC on earning his TD Title.



Pam Frattallone's Cocker Spaniel boys
Fancy Fremont TD, TDX, NAP, NJP, RN
Dalin's The Domino Effect RN



Congradutions to Julia Slatkiewicz and
"FC Owl Farm's What a Hoot" (Woody)
Am/Can CD, SE, OAJ, AX



Marianne Wood and one of her
German Shepherds.



Jim Doody and his new puppy
Long Coves Celtic Patriot (Emmet).



Julia and Woody training for that TD
title.



Donna Kiura with her dogs.

Top: left to right: Julia, Donna, Naomi

Floor: left to right: Tori, India, Jack



Bill Woods with Cheyenne

Send Us your Brags and Photo's at wwoodsjr@comcast.net and we'll try to get them in the next Newsletter!