

LUCKY DOG NEWS

Luckiamute Dog Training Club

December 2008

Officers & Board

President – Laurie Kudna
Vice Pres – Margie Dykstra
Secretary – Betty Schwartz
Treasurer – Ellen Parr

Board Members

Sherree Lewis ('07-'08)
Catherine Shields ('07-'08)
Larry Schwartz ('08-'09)
Bob Parker ('08-'09)

NEXT MEETING

December 4

Almost Home Restaurant
Dinner @ 6pm
Meeting @ 7pm



IMPORTANT ELECTION NEWS!

Per the bylaws, nominations for club offices can be made at the December general meeting. Individuals who are nominated do not have to be at the meeting, but must have agreed to be nominated. You can nominate yourself! The election takes place at the January meeting.

There have been some changes since the Nominating Committee came up with a slate of candidates. Laurie Kudna and Catherine Shields have indicated that they are unable to run for the positions they had agreed to – treasurer and board member, respectively.

Here is where we are in nominations and the changes will be made official at the December meeting:

President: Margie (as planned)

VP: Peggy (previously nominated for board)

Secretary: Sherree (as planned)

Treasurer: Ellen (willing to continue hence change in VP nominee)

Board Position: Betty Schwartz

Board Position: **POSITION OPEN**
(Peggy was previous nominee)

Nominations can be made for ANY of the positions, not just the one with no current candidate.

November Meeting Minutes

The November meeting of LDTC was held at Almost Home Restaurant in Salem, Oregon. The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Kudna at 7:00 pm. Attendees were Margie Dykstra, Laurie Kudna, Bob Parker, Betty and Larry Schwartz, Jean Kane, Ellen Parr, Peggy Miller and Sherree Lewis. Our guest was Susanna Branch.

Secretary's Report: Moved, seconded and passed to approve minutes of the October meeting as published. AKC sent information on optional new titles.

Obedience: Theresa Temple is the only judge we have right now for the 2009 trial. Suggested names for additional judges are Alvin Eng and Mary Jane Cerves.

Corky Vroom Seminar: 13 pairs are booked with 4 auditors. We have a maximum of 20 working pairs. There will be fliers at the Willamette Valley KC dog show.

TD/TDX Test: The fields we use are dependent on the spraying schedule of the farmers. We will have enough fields if the spraying is done early. The starting time depends on the number of tracks

that need to be plotted. Popluck items are needed for Saturday. Margie will bring chili for lunch. Need to check the whereabouts of the raidios. Cell phones work better than the radios. Still need the draw items and gifts for the tracklayers. Laurie has the gifts for the judges. Roy will pick Craig Green up at the airport. He will also check on the fields. There will be a raffle at the headquarters building. Roy will be given a partial gift certificate to a restaurant for his trouble.

A copy of a form letter will be placed in the club files for use when applying for use of the Chemeketa campus for VST tests.

VST: Roy Fair and Stephanie Gonyeau are the judges. Test is the weekend of May 2-3, 2009.

No New Business

No Old Business

Moved, seconded, passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Schwartz, secretary

2008 TRACKING TEST REPORT (TD/TDX)

By Margie Dykstra

Our annual Tracking Test was held on November 16. For the first time since we started offering tests in 1994, Luckiamute offered TDX tracks. Because of the withdrawal of two TD entrants we were able to offer three X tracks. Test Chair was Bob Parker and our Chief Tracklayer was Margie Dykstra. Test Secretary was Ellen Parr. Thanks to all the folks who came out and laid track for us - Sherree, Jean, Tamara DePue, Dave Vesely, Dan Castle, Sally Wells, Sally Grimes, Susanna Branch, Jennifer Hughes and Peggy. Laurie and Peggy made sure we were all fed very well and thanks go to all the club members who brought food! This year we also had a raffle (organized by Sally Grimes and Peggy) which raised \$60 to help offset costs. Thanks to all who donated items and bought tickets!

Our judges were Roy Fair (Ore) and Craig Green of Colorado. They plotted wonderful tracks. Although foggy, conditions were beautiful for the dogs. Nice moist ground, but no wind at all. When the fog had lifted enough for the tracklayers to see their flags, we

started laying tracks early Sunday morning.

We ended up with 5 TD and 3 TDX tracks. Three of the TDs passed. Sadly, none of the TDX's made it.

THE TD's - The first track was run by an extremely enthusiastic young German Shepherd bitch. She was raring to go at the start and 4 minutes later she had a new TD! Congratulations to Cindi Mertz and Grette vom Adler Stein. Tracklayer was Jean Kane.



The second track went to another German Shepherd. This time an older gal. She started well and worked methodically, but never got past the first turn.

Our third track went to a very enthusiastic Golden Retriever bitch who took off like a shot, but missed the first turn.

The fourth track went to a puppy! A 7 month old Chesapeake Bay

Retriever bitch. She knew exactly what she was doing and was so dedicated that she didn't even care when the line got between her back legs! In a short 5 minutes, she earned her TD. Congratulations to Sally Diess and Yakity's Flying D Splish Splas. Tracklayer Sherree Lewis.



The final TD went to an Australian Shepherd dog. This young boy knew exactly what he was doing and in 6 minutes he too became the proud bearer of a new TD. Congratulations to Nancy Seaman and Hisaws Divine Comedy. Tracklayer Tamara DePue.



THE TDX'S: Our first X track was run by a Basset Hound who started strongly and made it easily by his first cross tracks. He then overshot the next corner and while working his way back to the track, he came across the second cross track before he found the main track. The cross track was too enticing for him. After the whistle, they finished the track easily. I'm sure this pair will pass soon.

The second track, run by a Chessie, was a heartbreaker. They missed the first article. Otherwise, another beautifully run track and another pair sure to pass soon.

The final track went to a Labrador who ran into the same difficulty as the Basset on track 1. He got off the track and ran into the cross track. With a little more help, he finished the track out well.

We've run this test in rain and shine, wind and calm, and indeed often have fog in the morning. I don't really remember having a year like this one where the fog hung on ALL day. Track plotting day was gorgeous and sunny and the fog was gone by about 7 am. But on tracking day, the fog hung on. It lifted just a tad in the early am and the first TDX went down fairly easily. The second also, and I watched the tracklayer walk along

the top of a low hill. By the time he finished, the hill had completely disappeared into the mist. Our third TDX tracklayer, Sally Wells gets BIG kudos. Her flags were barely visible, but she had made her map with the aid of a compass - one of those fancy ones with a viewfinder that gives you very accurate numbers. She navigated from flag to flag using her numbers and never missed a step or a flag. The cross track layers could just see their flags by the time they went out - even though the grey of the flags matched the grey of the fog! Luckily the flags have contrasting tape which made them more visible. By this time the TD's were being run in a field that was, apparently, slightly less socked in.

No worries, I thought. This fog will lift by the time the TDX tracks are run. NOT! Kudos again to our judges. Visibility was poor. There were not sight points in the distance to be seen. Roy is very accustomed to tracking in Oregon fog, and Craig had one of those wonderful compasses. I had walked a couple of the tracks with them while they were plotting and know that they used every scrap of our very scant on-the-ground hints. These are mainly grass seed fields, so there isn't much on the ground

except grass - maybe the odd bit of mushroom, or a little taller scrap of grass or on rare occasions a weed. And, of course, where the TDX's moved into different cover (wetland conversion area that isn't tilled and didn't have standing water), there was more to look at on the ground. But what a challenge! And thank goodness for very talented judges (and track layers!)

By the time I got back over to the TD fields, they had already run 3 of the 5 dogs. You could actually see to the end of that field, thankfully. And probably on the TDX the judges could see more out in the field than we could see from the road. We could just barely see the working team and the judges off in the fog - but not much else and we're very accustomed to having a great view of all our working teams. I am extremely impressed at how the judges and the tracklayers navigated those tracks. I am definitely adding one of those compasses to my repertoire.

Happiness is a tracking dog!



A Successful TD/TDX Trial!

By Bob Parker

I would like to sincerely thank all of the club members and non club member tracklayers who helped put this trial on. As we all were reminded, these trials are not something that just a few of us can pull together; it takes the whole club to do it.

One tip we got from the judges was that in any future combined TD/TDX trials we put on, we need to treat them as two separate trials. In other words, two different Chief Tracklayers and a group of different tracklayers themselves. The reason for this is (as Margie and I found out) that some of the different tracklaying and crosstracking activities for each trial are going on at the same time. It is really hard to be in 3 places at the same time! Other club members may have other ideas of things we could do better next time, but I just want to repeat a big THANK YOU to all who helped put it together!

BRAGS

From Catherine Shields:

At the Willamette Valley KC shows, Promise finished her CD (2 years after her last leg!) with a 191 and 4th place. She also finished her RA with 2 first places! I was so pleased with how she worked. I had been refreshing her up for about a month before the trial, and we really came through for each other. At 9.5 years old, retired, sore knee and sore shoulder, I think we are done. Well we might try Rally Excellent...



Banner and Poppy went to a Malinois (plus 1 Mudi) herding day up at Elsie Rhodes', we had a GREAT time. Banner did so well that he has started herding lessons. Poppy is going to start soon also.



Thanks to Shelly Brosnan for the pictures!

Dharma goes BOB at WVKC



Margie Dykstra writes:

Harrier Quiz (Hartshire Hallboy) was WD at the Saturday WVKC show for a point and got a major on Sunday by going WD/BOB over specials! Quiz now has 11 points and both majors.



AN EMPTY HARNESS



BLACKSTAR'S APOCRYPHAL TALE,
CD, TD, NA, NAI, RE, VCD-1, CGC,TT, FMD

*16 December 1997
to
19 November 2008*

It is never easy to say goodbye to a friend especially when that friend has been a good partner and special buddy. Legend was one of those dogs. Although he wasn't a big winner in the show ring, Legend gave me my first taste of success in the group ring with a Herding Group 3 in Canada. He retired from the show ring with 8 points and 1 major – he wasn't the type that judges were putting up at the time and he really didn't enjoy the show ring so we quit being point fodder. He didn't get a thrill out of obedience, so we stopped at a CD. Legend's agility career ended when he suffered an injury while doing some unauthorized "herding" of one of my 4 horned rams. He did love Rally and we had fun and success in the rally ring. He even got 2 RAE legs this spring at the Belgian

National Specialty show with a win and some nice placements.

Legend was a great traveller and we went to six BSCA national specialty shows together – Montana, Missouri, Washington, Wisconsin, Oklahoma and here in Oregon. Liked the motel beds but hated the elevators!



Legend's forte was tracking. He got me back on the end of the line. I had quit tracking after losing my first Belgian Brio to cancer. Legend was a very enthusiastic tracker and got his TD on his first attempt at the 2001 national specialty in St Louis. He dragged me through the deep cover of that track, ignoring the critters that were literally scurrying underfoot and nose.

We trained for VST, but he never really enjoyed urban tracking. He preferred deep cover, obstacles and barriers to crash through. One of my favorite memories will always be of a track at EDOC's spring test. We got to run the alternate track and although we got the whistle when I was sure the track couldn't possibly go into that drained pond, I will never forget the thrill of following that dog through canary grass that was so thick and deep I couldn't even see him! I just had to trust my dog as he wound through the marsh over

fallen trees and through chest deep water. What was even more impressive was his willingness to follow the track when it went under an electric fence – twice! This was a farm dog who knew that electric fences bite. Yes, this fence was turned off, but he didn't know that and had to trust me that he was safe. That is the definition of trust as only a dog can give it.

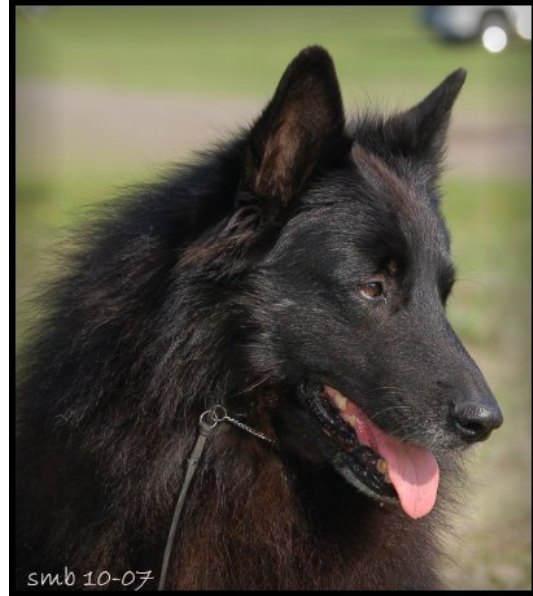


Another image is of Legend going to the start flag as a dog of another color. A small hailstorm hit as we harnessed up and by the time we got to the start he was covered in hail and more white than black!

My biggest regret is that the stars never aligned to allow Legend to earn his TDX. I know he was capable and his tracking buddies know he was capable. I just wanted the rest of the world to know how talented he was. He came close last spring when he made it to the last turn and chose to go left down a nice shady boulevard instead of right to the glove a hundred yards away. Well, I could hardly blame him for going for the shade as the temperature was in the mid-80's and his face was yellow from the grass pollen.

I lost legend to an aggressive stomach cancer. He was a good dog.

~Peggy



The Best Place to Bury a Dog

There is one best place to bury a dog. If you bury him in this spot, he will come to you when you call – come to you over the grim, dim frontier of death, And down the well-remembered path and to your side again.

And though you call a dozen living Dogs to heel, they shall not growl at him, nor resent his coming, For he belongs there.

People may scoff at you, who see no lightest blade of grass bent by his footfall, who hear no whimper, people who may never really have had a dog. Smile at them, for you shall know something that is hidden from them and which is well worth the knowing.

The one best place to bury a Good Dog is in the heart of his master.

~Ben Hur Lampman
first published in the *Portland Oregon*
September 11, 1925

Annual Meeting & Fido Fest!

WHEN: Sunday January 11th 1:00 pm

WHERE: Oak Grove School - West Salem (where we have our tracking test)

WHAT: Potluck, General Meeting, Fun and Games, Prizes!

Be There or Be Square! Fun is guaranteed or your money back!

REMEMBER!
DEADLINE FOR EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNTS FOR THE CORKY
VROOM SEMINAR IS DECEMBER
10TH.

GIVE YOURSELF A CHRISTMAS
PRESENT.

YOU DESERVE IT

REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE
FOUND ON THE LUCKIAMUTE
WEBSITE.